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World Pg10

Hillary makes way for Obama

Drivers dinged with new tax

VEHICLES Starting Monday, the city's new "personal vehicle tax" kicks in. The tax, which applies only to personal vehicles, comes to $60 per year for a car, and $30 for a motorcycle.

Council approved the tax after bitter debate last fall, along with a land transfer tax that became effective Feb. 1. The new City of Toronto Act gave council the right to levy the taxes, and Mayor David Miller said the city needed the money to balance the budget.

The Ontario government has agreed to collect the tax for the city when drivers renew their licence plate. Drivers who refuse to pay the tax won't get their plates renewed.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ryerson **Swashbuckling students**

GEOFF PARKIN/TOP NEWS

Ryerson students attempt to break the Guinness World Record for world's largest sword fight yesterday. Armed with blue and yellow plastic swords, more than 500 Ryerson students attempted to break the old record of 483 people fighting for a minimum of 15 minutes. Last year, Ryerson students set a new mark for the world's biggest dance class.

Canada pg 6

Autumn vote likely

Sports pg 18

Stubler on hot seat: York

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Lawsuits launched

Maple Leaf facing class action suits due to tainted meat

Four separate class-action lawsuits have been filed against the company that recalled ready-to-eat meats linked to the nationwide outbreak of a deadly bacterial infection.

The lawsuits, filed in Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, named Maple Leaf Foods, which was linked to the ongoing outbreak after some products at a Toronto plant tested positive for the listeria bacterium last week.

"Between the telephone calls to our various offices and the people who have contacted us by way of the Internet, we've already heard from about 500 people."
Lawyer Evatt Merchant

"Between the telephone calls to our various offices and the people who have contacted us by way of the Internet, we've already heard from about 500 people," said Evatt Merchant, a partner in the Calgary office of the Regina-based class-action specialty law firm that filed all four suits. "I wish the number was smaller ... It's an unbelievable tragedy and it should have been avoided."

There are now six deaths in Ontario that are being blamed directly on the outbreak strain of Listeriosis monocytogenes — including one in Peel Region — while another six, including three in Toronto, are under investigation. The death of a 64-year-old man from the Victoria area who contracted the disease is the only death outside Ontario that has been linked to the outbreak so far.

None of the lawsuits — which all have named representative plaintiffs — involve deaths.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, P. 3

Paramedics to patrol subway platforms

The TTC is posting paramedics at the system's busiest subway station to try to reduce train delays caused by sick passengers.

Rider illness is the top cause of rush-hour delays, accounting for more than 49 hours of lost service time last year.

The TTC and Toronto EMS launched a 19-week pilot project this week in which a paramedic and TTC supervisor are posted at the Bloor subway station, with the option to travel quickly to nearby stops, in hopes of shaving a couple minutes off the usual eight- to 10-minute ambulance response time.

Delays

• "At the end of the day, though, these medical emergencies end up causing a large number of delays — in total 2,983 minutes of delays (annually)," TTC chair Adam Giambrone said.

Ambulances will still be called in each case, but they may be redeployed if the on-site paramedic is able to handle the problem alone without assistance.

As subway ridership has grown, so have illness-related delays, TTC chair Adam Giambrone said yesterday.

"None of this is the fault of the individuals who are experiencing these, of course. No one chooses to have a medical emergency," he said.

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Stabbing suspect identified
Police have released the name of the suspect apprehended after two random stabbings in the Yonge and Eglinton area yesterday. Mauricio Delgado-Cruz, 37, faces numerous charges including aggravated assault and assault with a weapon. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Man charged in cheque fraud scheme

A mail courier from Scarborough has been arrested in relation to a cheque fraud operation. The man was operating as a mail courier for banks throughout the GTA in July and August when more than $10 million in business cheques went missing from sealed mailbags, said OPP Staff Sgt. Jim Gorry. Police said the man and other suspects then cashed the cheques. Nirmalan Yogeswaran, 32, faces numerous charges.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tomorrow's Metro

Food
Barb Holland whips together a delicious dish with the underused vegetable rapini.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Watch reports on disgruntled Hillary Clinton supporters hoping to spoil Obama's party at the DNC convention and on Stephen Harper practically ensuring a fall election for Canadians. Also, a look at the Tories' $100M plan to map the Arctic
Read Ben Rycroft's TFC blog on the bright future former TFC player Maurice Edu has ahead of him in Scotland

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3	541
Ontario Pick 4	3178
Encore	2836286
Daily Keno	2, 3, 5, 14, 17, 27, 29, 31, 32, 36, 44, 45, 46, 49, 50, 60, 62, 65, 69, 70.

These results are not official.

News in brief

CHARGED A top aide to Senator Art Eggleton is facing numerous charges, including sodomy and forcible confinement, in connection with what police are calling a violent sexual assault. Robert Meinzer, 38, was arrested Monday in Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New attempt at deal

TTC to decide on reopening streetcar bids from firms

TTC staff say they're ready to try to negotiate a $1.25-billion streetcar contract with three manufacturers, including Quebec-based Bombardier, Alstom Transportation Inc. of France and Siemens Canada Ltd.

Councillors on the Toronto Transit Commission will decide today whether to enter into what's called a multi-phase bid process with the three suppliers of 100 per cent low-floor streetcars.

The move means the TTC's lengthy and carefully monitored request for proposals process is officially dead after the only two bidders, Bombardier and British-based TRAM Power, were deemed last month not to meet Toronto's commercial and technical requirements.

The TTC could have reissued its request for proposals, said chief general manager Gary Webster.

It believes the specifications for the car are sound. Instead, he said, the new negotiation process will allow for more engagement with the manufacturers.

"We'd like to know if there's a stumbling block. We're more likely to hear about it during this negotiation process."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Possible meeting with Bombardier

- Bombardier and TTC officials are not scheduled to meet until next week and the following week to discuss why the company's bid was rejected.

Missing man's family granted visa

IMMIGRATION The mother and brother of the Indian Sunrise Propane employee missing since the Aug. 10 explosion were granted 60-day Canadian visas yesterday, a day after they were denied entry to Canada by a consulate near their home in Punjab. Rajinder Saini, the father of the missing Parminder Saini, had already been granted a visa by the consulate in Chandigarh. Citizenship and Immigration Canada intervened.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

AARON HARRIS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Clarence Hummel, centre, laughs after being presented with a cheque for $22,572,856 million yesterday at the CNE. Hummel and a group of workers at a GM dealership in Sundridge won half of the $45-million Lotto 6/49 jackpot.

Multiple blaze

Cops probing suspicious fires

EAST END Police are investigating three suspicious fires on the same street in the east end yesterday. The first fire started around 2:30 a.m. on Principal Road, a commercial strip near Ellesmere and Birchmount roads. Another fire was reported around 5 a.m. and a third 30 minutes later.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lotto winners keeping day jobs

Now that he has nearly $1 million, Clarence Hummel is going to eat a lot of Kraft Dinner.

As he and 24 co-workers picked up their $22,572,856 lottery cheque yesterday morning, Hummel told onlookers he couldn't wait to get home to Trout Creek, Ont., and celebrate with a hearty helping of the boxed macaroni product.

It wasn't a reference to the infamous Barenaked Ladies song If I Had A Million Dollars. Hummel said he just really loves KD.

"My wife just bought two cases last week," he said, grinning.

"My wife just bought two cases last week."
Clarence Hummel on still eating Kraft Dinner

More proof that things won't change too much for the winners, colleagues at Bray Motors, a GM dealership in Sundridge: All plan to keep their day jobs.

The company's full-time staff bought a weekly lottery ticket for close to 15 years before they scored half of the $45 million Lotto 6/49 prize from the Aug. 6 draw.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Listeria facts to remember

How do humans get infected?
In addition to tainted deli meat, listeriosis can be contracted from contaminated unpasteurized (raw) dairy products, raw vegetables and uncooked meats. Foods such as hotdogs, cold cuts or deli meats can also be contaminated after processing.

What foods should I avoid if I am concerned?
Deli meats; hotdogs; soft and semi-soft cheeses such as feta, brie and Camembert; blue-veined cheese made from unpasteurized milk; pate; smoked seafood and fish.

But should I be that concerned?
Experts say most healthy adults and children who ingest listeria germs will not get sick. At worst, they may have a "short and unremarkable diarrhea episode for a couple of days," said Dr. John Carsley, a medical officer with Vancouver Public Health.

Who should be concerned?
Those at most risk of serious illness are the elderly, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems, for example, people with cancer, kidney disease or AIDS. A woman who develops listeriosis during the first three months of pregnancy may miscarry.

Something in my fridge smells funny. Is it listeria?
Probably not, as foods contaminated with listeria look, smell and taste normal. But unlike other harmful bacteria, it can grow on foods stored in a fridge, so watch expiry dates.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man slashed in throat

A 37-year-old man was slashed three times in the throat while walking down the street with friends on St. Clair Avenue, east of Dufferin Street, Monday. The suspect is described as a 25-year-old white man. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Honour on display

Duo preparing light show on WWI vets at City Hall

Actor R.H. Thomson calls his latest endeavour "a white-knuckle project."

He and lighting designer Martin Conboy want to project the name of every Canadian who died in World War I in public spaces over eight nights in November.

They want to project the names — more than 68,000 — in Ottawa, London, England, and every Canadian provincial capital.

Now all they need are: Firm locations in most of the provincial capitals; specialized projectors that rent for up to $3,000 per night; local organizers to help out; and some technical wizardry, including an atomic clock, to co-ordinate the display across nine time zones and an ocean.

That, and $100,000 or so.

Yesterday, Thomson and Conboy were at Toronto City Hall, where they've been granted permission to project the names onto the façade of the east tower.

Checking out the site involved clambering through the mechanical room at the top of the west tower, where Conboy found a spot to mount his projector.

Conboy and Thomson have lined up firm locations in Ottawa, Halifax and London; they're still working on locations in as many other provincial capitals as possible.

They've already carried out a similar project on a smaller scale: In April 2007, they projected — on the National War Memorial in Ottawa — the names of all 3,598 Canadians who died taking Vimy Ridge in 1917.

"We're personalizing it; it becomes somebody's moment," Conboy said.

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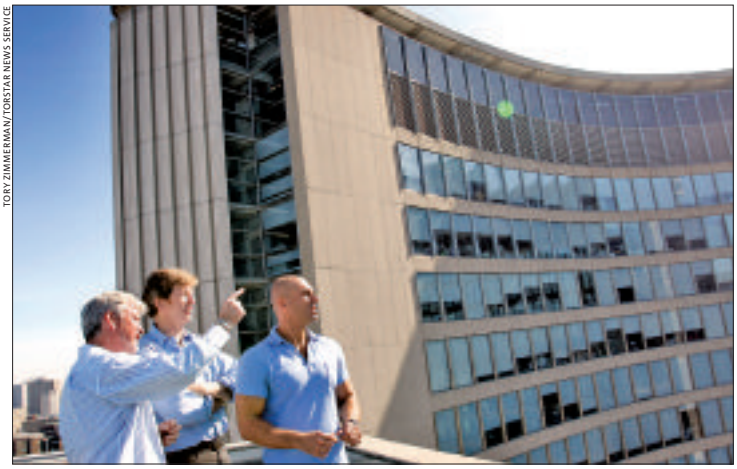
TORY ZIMMERMAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Actor R.H. Thomson, centre, and Martin Conboy, left, discuss a light show in honour of fallen World War I soldiers with City Hall facilities and logistics supervisor Daniel Picheca.

Procession for blast

It may not have been the rousing spectacle organizers had hoped for. But it's a safe bet the recently evacuated residents of a North York suburb — forced to flee after a massive explosion at a propane facility — have come to prefer that their evening activities remain on the quiet side.

Yesterday afternoon, city Coun. Maria Augimeri led a procession along residential streets to meet with residents and give them a chance to connect with emergency personnel who responded after the blast.

"We wanted the kids to come out and see the firefighters and see the police and EMS vehicles and see there was nothing to be feared," said Augimeri.

Firefighters, EMS workers, TTC workers and members of the Canadian Red Cross took part in the slow procession that wound its way around the quiet streets.

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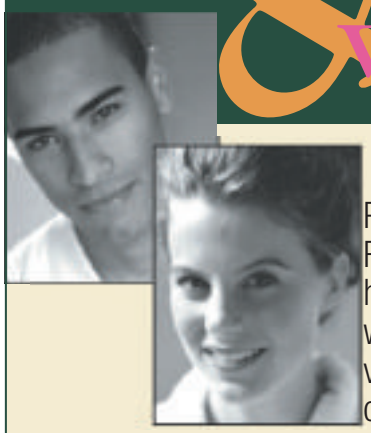

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2880 Queen St. E (Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

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Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
Woodchester Plaza
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G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
1A - 1370 Dundas St. E
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2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.

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Study on Tasers delayed until next year

A report on electronic stun gun safety that was expected this week at a police chiefs convention has been delayed until next year. The report on the weapons, commonly known by the brand name Tasers, will be subjected to an independent peer review. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Soldiers aware of civilians: MacKay

Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan are "fully aware" of procedures they must follow to mitigate civilian casualties, Defence Minister Peter MacKay, left, said yesterday after a U.S. air strike reportedly left as many as 90 people dead. The air strike last Friday on a village in Herat province is believed to have killed 60 children along with 15 women and 15 men, Afghan and UN officials said. But the U.S. military stood by its account that 25 militants and five civilians were killed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper hints at election call

Prime minister says government unable to function properly

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is sending his clearest signal yet that Canadians will be heading to the polls this fall, saying that "fundamental differences" with the opposition parties make it impossible for his government to tackle looming economic woes.

"The country must have a government that can function during a time of economic uncertainty. If it's not this … Parliament, the public will have an opportunity to decide whom," Harper told a news conference yesterday.

A national campaign could kick off next week before three federal byelections on Sept. 8, Harper suggested. "We'll have to judge whether it's appropriate to ask people to vote twice in the space of a few weeks," he said.

In another signal that an election is approaching, Gov. Gen. Michaelle Jean yesterday cancelled a trip to China planned for Sept. 6 to 11. That means she's now available to meet with the prime minister if he seeks an election during that period.

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion mocked Harper's sense of urgency and said the Tories are only trying to force a vote to prevent further parliamentary scrutiny of their own scandals.

"This prime minister is panicking, inventing reasons to try and trigger an election."
Liberal leader Stephane Dion

"What is his agenda? Nobody has any idea of what is his agenda … And he wants me to agree with it on the phone? This is a joke," Dion told reporters in Toronto.

"It's clear he's trying to create any reason to rush to an election to hide how much he is ill-prepared to face the difficulties of the country. This prime minister is panicking, inventing reasons to try and trigger an election and breaking his word because he has, as you know, a fixed election date law to respect."

The Liberal leader urged the prime minister to wait until after three federal byelections on Sept. 8 and Parliament's return before making any decision about an election.

Harper yesterday continued to set the stage for an election, declaring the minority Parliament, elected in January 2006, is now at an impasse.

Harper made clear that he doesn't see his party's own legislation, which sets the date of the next vote for October 2009, as a barrier to an election this fall, all but suggesting that a national campaign was in the cards in the coming weeks.

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Feds to spend $100M to map Arctic riches

RESOURCES The federal government will spend more than $100 million to map the mineral riches of Canada's North, saying those untapped resources will be key to the future prosperity of the country.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who is in the Arctic today, said the search for new resources is motivated by surging demands for energy and minerals.

"We will encourage responsible development of the North's bountiful economic resources," Harper said yesterday.

"Managed properly, Canada's share of this incredible endowment will fuel the prosperity of our country for generations. And geomapping will pave the way for the resource development of the future," he said.

The funding, to be spent over five years, will go toward field research as well as scientific analysis to better pinpoint the locations of mineral riches across the vast hinterland.

The prime minister cited previous discoveries of gas in the Beaufort Sea, oil in the eastern Arctic, gold in the Yukon and diamonds in Nunavut. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper made an announcement at the National Archives in Ottawa yesterday about the government's plans to search for new mineral resources in Canada's North.

Public to get faster news on escapes

MANHUNT Saskatchewan residents were told yesterday they will get information faster when there has been an escape at a provincial jail, as an RCMP manhunt continued for five prisoners who busted out over the weekend.

The provincial government said that effective immediately, the public will be alerted right away if there is an escape from any corrections centre.

"People have the right to know if offenders are unlawfully at large, whether they are potentially dangerous or not," said Darryl Hickie, Saskatchewan's Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing.

Provincial authorities have been scrambling to explain how six prisoners, including some facing murder charges, escaped on Sunday. All are charged in different incidents. One inmate was quickly apprehended. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CRASH Iranian forensic experts flew into Kyrgyzstan yesterday to help identify the remains of 56 people, including two Canadians, who were killed in a plane crash in the Central Asian country. The Foreign Affairs Department released a statement yesterday saying Kyrgyz authorities had advised them that two Canadian citizens were among the victims of Sunday's crash. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Six injured in Saskatchewan from tornado winds
Six people were taken to hospital yesterday after severe winds from a tornado swept through a lake area in Saskatchewan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Election should focus on quality of life: Official

The next federal election must be fought over issues that affect the daily lives of Canadians — roads, affordable housing, jobs — not arcane ones like Senate reform or environmental tax plans, says the head of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

"It's the pocket-book questions that Canadians want answered, questions like, 'How do I get to and from work when I can't afford gas for my car and there is no public transit in my subdivision?'" said federation president Jean Perrault, mayor of Sherbrooke, Que.

"This is what matters to Canadians, not arcane constitutional issues or complicated tax proposals," Perrault said.

Jean Perrault

An election is expected to be called next week for mid-October.

In addition to lambasting the Tories over their concern for issues like Senate reform, Perrault said Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion's green plan to shift taxes from income tax to sources of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions is interesting but shouldn't supersede talking about municipal concerns.

"What are we going to do to save the environment? Everybody is for that but … what about the quality of life of citizens that live in cities? It has to be addressed by the federal parties, all the parties," Perrault said in an interview.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

N.B. strengthens safety policies

ACCIDENT The New Brunswick government strengthened policies yesterday for the transport of students as the result of an accident in January that claimed the lives of seven students and a teacher.

The seven Bathurst High School basketball players and the wife of their coach were killed Jan. 12 when their 15-passenger van swerved into the path of an oncoming tractor-trailer.

An RCMP report says the van would not have passed a safety inspection and was using worn all-season tires.

A group of government officials set up to review the facts of the accident says existing guidelines on the transport of students should be made enforceable policies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

WANTED A man wanted for a string of cabin break-ins in Montana has been arrested after apparently spending almost a week in backcountry, some of it across the border in Canada. John Lynn, 44, is accused of breaking into several cabins in the Polebridge, Mont., area and shooting at the long-closed Trail Creek border station north of Polebridge.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Men with guns were not a threat to Obama

A group of men arrested in Denver this weekend with methamphetamine, guns and bulletproof vests made racist threats against Barack Obama, but it is becoming clear they posed no true danger to the presidential candidate, authorities said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Rioters protest Thai PM

Thousands of protestors pushed into the Thai prime minister's office compound yesterday while tens of thousands more stood outside, aimed at deposing a prime minister they accuse of having close ties to his disgraced predecessor. The protest ceased quickly after 500 riot police arrived. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sudanese plane holdup forces desert landing

DARFUR Hijackers in Sudan's war-torn Darfur region seized a jetliner carrying nearly 100 people and forced it to land at an airfield in the heart of the Sahara Desert in neighbouring Libya.

A Libyan official at the remote Kufra airport said there were 10 hijackers belonging to a Darfur rebel group who demanded fuel for the Boeing 737 to continue to France.

But the rebel group, the Sudan Liberation Movement, denied any link to the hijacking.

The flight was commandeered soon after taking off from Nyala, capital of southern Darfur, en route to Khartoum, the national capital.

The plane was diverted to Kufra, an oasis in southeast Libya close to the Sudanese and Egyptian borders, some 1,600 kilometres from Tripoli.

The hijackers rejected Libyan requests that they release women and children on the flight and allow provisions onto the plane, refusing any negotiations and demanding the refuelling, the official said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

MALAYSIA Opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim won a parliamentary seat for the northern state of Penang in a landslide election yesterday. Anwar was fired as deputy prime minister in 1998 and jailed for six years after he was convicted of corruption.

HAITI Hurricane Gustav toppled trees, dumped rain and sent global fuel prices soaring yesterday. The hurricane roared ashore in Haiti with top sustained winds near 145 km/h, 16 kilometres west of the city of Jacmel and 65 kilometres from the capital of Port-au-Prince.

INSURANCE The U.S. Census Bureau says the number of Americans lacking health insurance dropped from 47 million to 45.7 million in 2007, the first decline in numbers since George W. Bush became president in 2001. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Obama my candidate'

Clinton pledges support for rival in Denver speech

Hillary Clinton summoned millions of voters who supported her in the primaries to send Barack Obama to the White House, calling the man who outmanoeuvred her for the party's nomination "my candidate."

"And he must be our president," Clinton said in her pivotal speech at the Democratic National Convention last night.

The former first lady added, "We don't have a moment to lose or a vote to spare."

She urged fellow Democrats to work for Obama's election as president, telling them "we are on the same team and none of us can sit on the sidelines."

Given a rousing ovation when she appeared on the podium, Clinton declared: "Barack Obama is my candidate."

Clinton, who conceded a bruising primary season battle to Obama in early June, told delegates the country cannot afford to "suffer through more failed leadership."

"No way. No how. No McCain."

She's writing the final chapter in her failed campaign for the White House, making way for Obama.

Democrats at the convention, meanwhile, accused Republican John McCain of indifference to the working class and coziness with big oil.

"If he's the answer, then the question must be ridiculous," New York Gov. David Paterson said of the Republican presidential candidate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RON EDMONDS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton waves after being introduced by her daughter, Chelsea, before her speech last night at the Democratic National Convention in Denver.

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Zimbabwe's opposition party gets top spot

Lovemore Moyo, a member of Zimbabwe's opposition party, won the position as the speaker of the nation's parliament yesterday. The victory, which even drew votes from the party of longtime president Robert Mugabe, marks a big win for the opposition. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi bomber targets police

BLAST A suicide bomber with explosives hidden beneath his traditional robe infiltrated and blew himself up in a crowd of Iraqis trying to join the local police force yesterday, killing at least 25 people.

The attack occurred in the town of Jalula, a remote, impoverished community about 130 kilometres from Baghdad. Local police said law enforcement jobs are prized within the town due to high unemployment. The bomb was packed with nails and ball bearings to maximize casualties, police said. Five of the dead were officers, and 40 other people were wounded in the attack.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghanistan reviews troops

President Hamid Karzai's government has demanded a review of U.S. and NATO troops in the country amid allegations that large numbers of civilians have died recently in raids and strikes by foreign forces.

In a harshly worded statement released Monday, the government ordered its ministries of foreign affairs and defence to review the presence of foreign troops, regulate their presence with a status of forces agreement and negotiate a possible end to "air strikes on civilian targets, unco-ordinated house searches and illegal detention of Afghan civilians."

The statement appears to be aimed at both international forces operating in Afghanistan: The U.S.-led coalition, which conducts special forces counterterrorism operations and trains the Afghan army and police, and the UN-mandated NATO-led force tasked to provide security.

Capt. Mike Windsor, a spokesman for the NATO-led force, said they have seen media reports but have not received "any official notification so far."

"NATO's ... mission is based on a UN mandate and carried upon the invitation of the Afghan government," Windsor said. There was no immediate comment from the U.S.-led coalition.

White House spokesman Tony Fratto said Monday that foreign forces "take every precaution to try to avoid innocent civilian casualties." Asked about Karzai's concerns about civilian casualties, Fratto said an investigation is underway.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend strikes

- The decision follows a weekend of airstrikes in western Afghanistan, in which officials say some 90 civilians, including women and children, were killed.

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Cindy McCain, the wife of Republican presidential candidate John McCain, visits a refugee centre yesterday in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Russia grants recognition

Russia formally recognized the breakaway Georgian territories at the heart of its war with Georgia yesterday, drawing immediate condemnation from the West as the United States dispatched a military ship bearing aid to a port city still patrolled by Russian troops.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev was unapologetic about his decision and said he did not fear a Cold War. He said Georgia forced its hand by launching an attack targeting South Ossetia on Aug. 7 in an apparent bid to seize the breakaway region.

> **"This is the only chance to save people's lives."** Dmitry Medvedev

Russian troops drove deep into the U.S. ally's territory in a five-day war that Moscow saw as a justified response to a military threat in its backyard and the West viewed as a repeat of Soviet-style intervention in its vassal states.

"This is not an easy choice but this is the only chance to save people's lives," Medvedev said yesterday in a televised address a day after Russia's Kremlin-controlled parliament voted unanimously to support the recognition.

The United States was taken by surprise by the speed of the Russian response on recognition and escalated it by having Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice threaten a UN Security Council veto should Russia ask for international recognition of its move.

"Abkhazia and South Ossetia are a part of the internationally recognized borders of Georgia and it's going to remain so," Rice said.

Britain, Germany and France also criticized the decision.

Medvedev later said Russia did not seek or fear a new Cold War and that it was up to the West to avoid it. He also promised a military response to U.S. plans to install a missile defence system in Poland and the former Czech Republic. Washington insists the system is designed to counter the threat from Iran or North Korea, but Russia says it is aimed at blunting Russia's nuclear capability.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

DETROIT Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm plans to go ahead with a historic hearing Sept. 3 to decide whether Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, who is charged with 10 felonies in two criminal cases, should be removed from office.

BOLIVIA Police say 21 people were killed and 53 injured, some seriously, when a truck loaded with passengers plunged off a 300-metre cliff in the Andes. The driver was among those killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Culture a big contributor to Canadian economy, report says
The arts community's fight against a planned $20-million government funding cutback was boosted yesterday by a new think-tank report, which says culture generated $84.6 billion in direct and indirect economic benefits last year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Computer with a million bank records sold on eBay for $64

LONDON A computer containing banking security details of more than one million people has been sold on eBay for $64, bank officials said yesterday.

The computer contained account numbers, passwords, cellphone numbers and signatures. It belonged to MailSource UK — an arm of Graphic Data, an archiving company that holds financial information for Royal Bank of Scotland, NatWest and American Express.

The security breach became known when the computer's buyer found the information and contacted authorities.

A MailSource employee removed the computer from the group's storage facility and sold it, Graphic Data said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MPs to probe high oil prices

A Commons committee will begin investigating tomorrow how a barrel of crude oil could jump from $70 US to $140 within a year and what role industry and speculators played in this sharp and economically painful rise.

Similar to U.S. congressional hearings that began this spring, the Commons Subcommittee on Oil and Gas and Other Energy Prices will ask oil executives and futures traders to explain the inner workings of the market. Committee members will likely demand greater transparency, call for regular inventory reports and seek limits on commodity traders.

With the price of oil down about 22 per cent since reaching a record high of $147.27 on July 11, lawmakers may be a bit late. But Liberal MP and committee vice-chair Dan McTeague said consumers are still being affected by the commodity-price roller-coaster. "Our purpose is to shed light on what is obviously going to be a growing concern. You can't simply write off what happened between January and July."

What the committee is unlikely to uncover is an explanation why the price at the pumps hasn't fallen in step with crude prices, and why Toronto — historically cheaper than Kingston, Ottawa or Montreal — is now the most expensive place in the region to fill up.

"It's really weird," said McTeague. "I've never seen this kind of thing before. We've always had a slight advantage."

Even the manager of a downtown Esso station was surprised. "Why aren't we seeing $1.15? I don't know why," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Economy squeaks by in second quarter: Bank of Canada

OTTAWA The Canadian economy likely managed sufficient growth to avoid a technical recession in the second quarter, deputy governor David Longworth said yesterday.

In a clear signal to markets before next week's interest rate announcement, Longworth said the central bank is downgrading its expectations for economic recovery and toning down its inflation alert.

The bigger surprise was Longworth's downward revision of growth from ongoing market turmoil, weak U.S. demand for Canadian exports and lower commodity prices: "Recent data suggest(s) that the Canadian (GDP) growth in the second quarter was likely somewhat weaker than expected." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Other opinions

TD Bank chief economist Don Drummond said actual results could be even worse. "There's at least a 50 per cent chance of having a negative number. The (Canadian) export numbers are truly awful."

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Other study requirements will be discussed with you at the study doctor's clinic. Participants will be in the study for about 7 weeks. There will be 9 visits to the study doctor. There is no cost to study participants for all visits to the study doctor, medical exams, or study medicine.
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U.S. consumer outlook and housing market improve
The Conference Board's August consumer confidence index was up for the second month to 56.9, as Americans felt better about the economy amid a 15 cent a gallon drop in gas prices and a record 15.4 per cent drop in home prices. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New rivals to heat up wireless world

Moody's has lowered its outlook for the cosy Canadian wireless sector, citing the threat of new rivals following Ottawa's recent wireless airwave auction.

The debt-rating agency lowered its rating to "stable" from "positive" yesterday as the Big Three wireless providers — Rogers Communications Inc., Bell Canada Inc. and Telus Corp. — prepare to compete with national and regional challengers.

Potential contenders include Globalive Communications Corp., Quebecor Inc., Data & Audio-Visual Enterprises Wireless Inc., MTS Communications Inc. and Shaw Communications Inc.

While the incumbents have argued the Canadian wireless industry is competitive, Moody's said restrictions on foreign ownership of telecom companies has allowed the three "to pursue profit-oriented growth strategies in a protected market that is far less penetrated than the U.S."

"(Rogers, Bell and Telus) pursue profit-oriented growth strategies in a protected market."
Moody's

Relaxed competition is evidenced by higher plan rates and a lower rate of penetration compared to the U.S. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Public-sector employment up

OTTAWA Public-sector jobs reached 3.4 million in the second quarter of 2008, up 3.1 per cent from the same period in 2007, Statistics Canada reported.

This growth comes after a decline in all levels of government in the '90s.

Total wages and salaries in the sector grew 4.9 per cent, though the proportion of workers has remained stable at about 19 per cent.

Growth in health and social services rose 2.4 per cent in the second quarter compared with the same time last year. In contrast, education job growth remained stable at 2 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE Statistics Canada says 460,040 Canadians received a total of $732.5 million in regular employment insurance benefits in June, 0.5 per cent more than May. Compared with the same time last year, the number of recipients fell 3 per cent.

BANKS BMO Financial Group posted its third-quarter results yesterday and reported a 21 per cent decline in net income, increased higher provisions for bad loans and a share buyback plan. Net profits fell to $521 million, or 98 cents per share, from $660 million in 2007.

BANKS The Bank of Nova Scotia said profits fell by 2 per cent in the third quarter because of credit losses and lower capital markets revenue. It said net profit was $1.01 billion, or 98 cents a share, down from $1.03 billion in 2007.

COPYRIGHT A jury awarded Mattel Inc. $40 million US for contract interference and copyright infringement yesterday, just 2 per cent of the $1 billion US Mattel demanded in a copyright lawsuit against Bratz maker MGA Entertainment Inc. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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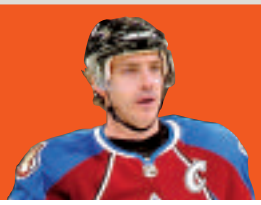
NHL
Veteran defenceman Bryan Berard will attempt to make an NHL club on a tryout contract, after being invited to training camp with the Philadelphia Flyers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Sakic still mum on plans

Star centre Joe Sakic, left, is scheduled to speak at a press conference tomorrow but has given no indication whether he'll play another season in Colorado or hang up his skates. According to a report in the Denver Post, Sakic is set to appear before his charity golf tournament, though, his agent Don Baizley says, he is "still is trying to make up his mind." The Associated Press

EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Yastrzemski out of hospital

MLB Hall of Famer Carl Yastrzemski has been released from a hospital one week after having triple bypass heart surgery.

The former left-fielder for the Boston Red Sox was discharged yesterday, according to team spokesman John Blake. He had surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital after experiencing chest pains.

Yastrzemski, the last player to hit for baseball's Triple Crown, turned 69 last Friday.

Bonds seeks dismissal of case

MLB Barry Bonds asked a federal judge Monday to toss out most of the government's case against him that charges the slugger lied to a federal grand jury about his alleged steroids use.

In a filing made in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, lawyers for baseball's home run king argue that many of the charges stem from ambiguous answers to ambiguous questions posed by prosecutors.

Rays' Longoria to resume hitting

MLB Tampa Bay Rays rookie third baseman Evan Longoria will resume hitting this week as he continues a rehab program for a broken bone in his right wrist.

The all-star expects to start throwing today and hitting within the next few days. He hopes to return around Sept. 1.

Longoria, out since Aug. 8, is hitting .278 with 22 homers and 71 RBIs in 104 games. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doc ends Rays' domination

Halladay shakes off trio of losses to Tampa to earn 16th win of season

Blue Jays 6 Rays 2

The Red Sox and Yankees aside for the moment, it was time for the Blue Jays to concern themselves with those Tampa Rays.

So far, so good — if not a little late.

Before all of the 13,478 locals in St. Petersburg, Fla., with pennant fever, the Jays took last night's opener 6-2, behind a mostly solid Roy Halladay and a near-spotless effort from four relievers.

Jesse Carlson, Brandon League, Scott Downs and, in the end, B.J. Ryan, nailed it down with three innings of one-hit ball.

Vernon Wells, who ripped two-out, two-run homers in the first inning of each of his previous two games, settled for a run-scoring single during last night's first licks.

For the homer — his fourth in three games — he waited 'til the ninth, as the Jays beat the Rays for only the fourth time in 13 meetings.

The Jays are now 12 games back in the loss column on Tampa, which, with 79 wins, already have smoked their all-time single-season record of 70.

Halladay, gone after six innings and 111 pitches, improved to 16-9 on the year, with his first win in four tries against the Rays this season.

He had one spot of trouble — that came in the sixth when he loaded the bases on two singles and a hit-batsman and old teammate Eric Hinske mostly cleared them with a two-run single.

Rod Barajas also went deep for the Jays — a solo shot off J.P. Howell in the eighth — as the team rang up a dozen hits in all.

Wells' 410-foot bomb in the ninth gave them a multi-homer game for the fifth time in row.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rolen returns

- The Blue Jays activated third baseman Scott Rolen from the 15-day disabled list yesterday. Rolen was placed on the DL on Aug. 10 with left shoulder tightness. He is expected to work out with the team for a couple days before returning to the starting lineup.

CHRIS O'MEARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tampa Bay Rays starter James Shields wipes his face as he struggles in the third inning against the Blue Jays last night in St. Petersburg, Fla. Shields gave up a pair of runs on a double to Lyle Overbay in the third and allowed four earned runs on nine hits over 6 2/3 innings of work.

MLB finally ready to start using instant replay

MLB Major League Baseball reversed its long-standing opposition to instant replay and will allow umpires to check video on home-run calls in series that start tomorrow.

The start date comes nearly 10 months after general managers voted 25-5 to use the technology, and following MLB agreements with the unions for umpires and for players.

"I believe that the extraordinary technology that we now have merits the use of instant replay on a very limited basis," commissioner Bud Selig said. "The system we have in place will ensure that the proper call is made on home run balls and will not cause a significant delay to the game."

Selig

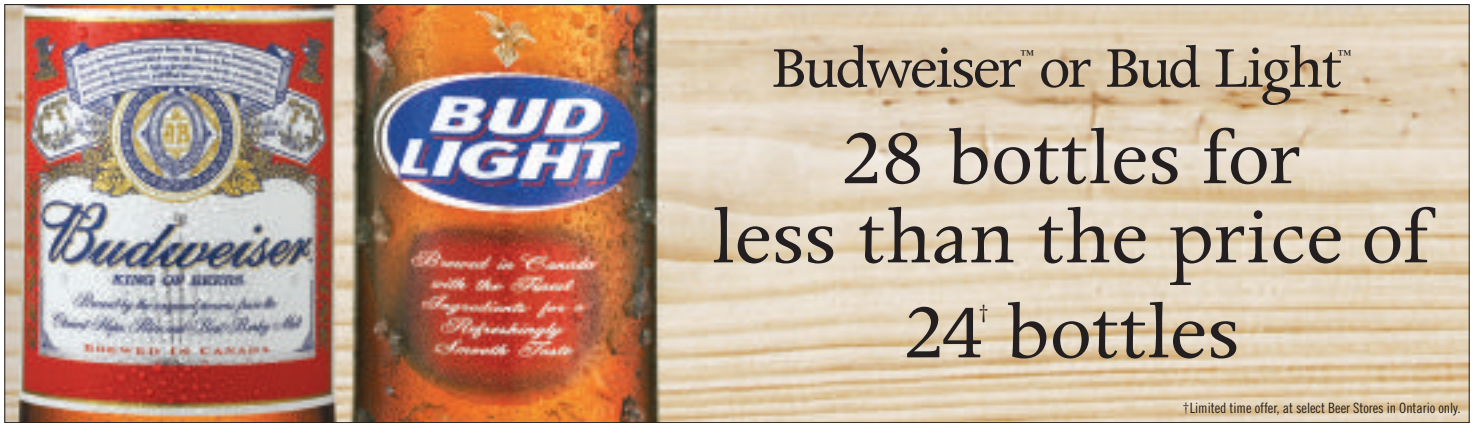
Three series are scheduled to start tomorrow, with Philadelphia at the Chicago Cubs, Minnesota at Oakland and Texas at the Los Angeles Angels. For other games, replays will be available to umpires starting Friday.

For now, video will be used only on so-called "boundary calls," such as determining whether fly balls went over the fence, whether potential home runs were fair or foul and whether there was fan interference on potential home runs.

Selig, who opposed replay in the past, said he won't allow its use to expand to additional types of calls.

"My opposition to unlimited instant replay is still very much in play," Selig said. "I really think that the game has prospered for well over a century now doing things the way we did it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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NFL

Buffalo Bills quarterback Trent Edwards is ready to play after returning to practice yesterday. Edwards is back after missing a week with a bruised right thigh and said he should play in Buffalo's pre-season finale against Detroit tomorrow. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Tampa Bay	79	51	.608	—
Boston	76	55	.580	3½
N.Y. Yankees	70	61	.534	9½
TORONTO	**68**	**63**	**.519**	**11½**
Baltimore	62	70	.470	18

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Sox	76	56	.576	—
Minnesota	74	57	.565	1½
Cleveland	64	67	.489	11½
Detroit	64	68	.485	12
Kansas City	56	75	.427	19½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
L.A. Angels	79	51	.608	—
Texas	64	68	.485	16
Oakland	60	71	.458	19½
Seattle	49	82	.374	30½

NATIONAL LEAGUE
EAST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
N.Y. Mets	73	59	.553	—
Philadelphia	72	59	.550	½
Florida	67	64	.511	5½
Atlanta	57	74	.435	15½
Washington	47	85	.356	26

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago Cubs	81	50	.618	—
Milwaukee	76	55	.580	5
St. Louis	73	59	.553	8½
Houston	66	66	.500	15½
Cincinnati	58	74	.439	23½
Pittsburgh	57	74	.435	24

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	PCT	GB
Arizona	68	63	.519	—
L.A. Dodgers	65	67	.492	3½
Colorado	62	71	.466	7
San Francisco	58	73	.443	10
San Diego	49	82	.374	19

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
AMERICAN LEAGUE
TORONTO 6 Tampa Bay 2
Boston 7 N.Y. Yankees 3
Chicago White Sox 8 Baltimore 3
Cleveland 10 Detroit 4
Texas at Kansas City
Oakland at L.A. Angels
Minnesota at Seattle
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Cincinnati 2 Houston 1
Washington 2 L.A. Dodgers 1
Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia
Florida at Atlanta
Milwaukee at St. Louis
Arizona at San Diego
Colorado at San Francisco
TONIGHT'S GAMES
AMERICAN LEAGUE
Minnesota at Seattle, 4:40
Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05
Cleveland at Detroit, 7:05
Chicago W. Sox at Baltimore, 7:05
TORONTO at Tampa Bay, 7:10
Texas at Kansas City, 8:10
Oakland at L.A. Angels, 10:05
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh, 12:35
Arizona at San Diego, 3:35
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 7:05
Florida at Atlanta, 7:10
L.A. Dodgers at Washington, 7:10
Cincinnati at Houston, 8:05
Milwaukee at St. Louis, 8:15
Colorado at San Francisco, 10:15

AL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Bradley Tex	345	69	112	.325
Kinsler Tex	518	102	165	.319
Pedroia Bos	535	97	170	.318
Mauer Min	418	81	133	.318
Youkilis Bos	456	79	145	.318
Polanco Det	480	74	151	.315
Suzuki Sea	552	83	172	.312

NL BATTING LEADERS

Name, team	AB	R	H	AVG
Pujols StL	421	80	151	.359
Jones Atl	370	68	133	.359
Holliday Col	450	94	154	.342
Berkman Hou	457	99	151	.330
Theriot ChiC	480	70	152	.317
Lee Hou	436	61	137	.314

CFL

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Montreal	5	3	0	10
TORONTO	**3**	**5**	**0**	**6**
Hamilton	2	6	0	4
Winnipeg	2	6	0	4

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	T	PTS
Saskatchewan	6	2	0	12
Calgary	5	3	0	10
Edmonton	5	3	0	10
B.C.	4	4	0	8

WEEK 10
FRIDAY'S GAME
B.C. at Montreal, 7:30
SUNDAY'S GAME
Winnipeg at Saskatchewan, 3
MONDAY'S GAMES
Edmonton at Calgary, 4
TORONTO at Hamilton, 7:30

SOCCER

GAMES FEATURING TORONTO FC:
SATURDAY'S GAME
TORONTO at CD Chivas USA, 10:30

Argos sharpening axe

Coach could be ousted if team loses to Ticats: Source

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

A Labour Day loss may result in a coaching change for the Toronto Argonauts, a club source tells me.

His information:

If the Argos lose in Hamilton Monday — and that's feasible since the Tiger-Cats defeated Toronto in two previous games this season — the teams would be tied with 3-6 records and Rich Stubler could be fired as head coach and possibly demoted to his former position of defensive co-ordinator.

Replacing Stubler would either be ex-head coach Michael "Pinball" Clemons, who's been resisting overtures from ownership because of his preference to focus on his family and his CEO responsibilities with the Argos, general manager Adam Rita, who has decades of CFL coaching experience, or assistant GM Greg Mohns, a former head coach of the B.C. Lions.

"We've unloaded players (backup quarterback Michael Bishop, who was traded to the Saskatchewan Roughriders, and safety Orlondo Steinauer, who was released) and, if we can't beat Hamilton, we'll review our head-coaching situation," the Argos' source said. "It's possible Stubler isn't cut out to be a head coach. He might just be one of those guys who's able to be a great co-ordinator but doesn't have the skills to be a good head coach."

• Truth is, Stubler is demonstrating an irascible personality as a head coach and it's rubbed both players and management types the wrong way. I'm told Stubler and Mohns won't even talk to each other … Looks like Hamilton will start backup Richie Williams at QB Monday as Casey Printers, the CFL's highest-paid player, is still complaining about a sore thumb … And, hey, why haven't I been receiving any emails from boasting Roughriders fans lately? Might it be that the team, losers of two consecutive games, is falling apart, just as I suspected it ultimately would? After a 6-0 start, the Riders find themselves only two points ahead of the Calgary Stampeders and Edmonton Eskimos.

• Major changes are happening at Canadian sports networks.

TSN will launch another channel, TSN2, this week while The Score will introduce a state-of-the-art studio next week that'll include innovative bleachers and sliding glass windows to encourage fan participation. Maverick programming chief Richard Garner envisions fan involvement as a key element in The Score's future.

The outside of the network's Toronto building will offer passersby a massive screen that will display sports information and broadcasts.

The network also plans to throw a huge street bash, featuring luminaries such as ex-NHL star Wendel Clark and musicians Kardinal Offishall and The Trews.

GEOFF PARKIN/TORONEWS

Broadcaster Cabral "Cabbie" Richards shows off the new state-of-the-art studio at The Score television network yesterday. The new set up will allow for more fan interaction at the studio.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Strahan decides to stay retired

NFL Seven-time New York Giants Pro Bowler Michael Strahan is staying retired.

"This has been one of the toughest nights of my life," the former New York Giants defensive end told FoxSports.com in a story released yesterday afternoon. "But after long deliberation and throwing around a million scenarios in my head for the past day, I think it's just best if I stay retired."

Tony Agnone, Strahan's agent, did not immediately return a telephone call. Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon had no immediate comment.

Strahan

Giants general manager Jerry Reese asked the 36-year-old Strahan to reconsider his retirement Monday, just 48 hours after the Super Bowl champs lost Pro Bowl defensive end Osi Umenyiora for the season to a knee injury in the pre-season game against the New York Jets.

Strahan needed just about a day to turn down an offer to return for a 16th season with what could have been an $8-million US contract. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

NFL Peyton Manning is finally healthy enough to start practising with the Indianapolis Colts. Coach Tony Dungy says the team activated the two-time NFL MVP on Tuesday, clearing the way for him to begin working out with his teammates. Manning had been on the physically unable to perform list since training camp opened after surgery to remove an infected bursa sac from his left knee July 14.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHECK THIS OUT BEFORE YOU GO.

STARTING SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, WE'RE MAKING CHANGES TO SOME GO TRAIN & GO BUS SERVICES.

01 – LAKESHORE WEST GO BUS SERVICE
Sunday or holiday Monday trips will resume between Aldershot GO Station and McMaster University.

09 – LAKESHORE EAST GO BUS SERVICE
A new weekend and holiday trip will depart Oshawa GO Station at 4:40 a.m., Whitby at 4:50, Ajax at 5:00, Pickering at 5:10, then run express to Union Station GO Bus Terminal arriving at 5:45 a.m.

19 – OAKVILLE HWY. 403 GO BUS SERVICE
Two new weekday trips will depart Finch GO Bus Terminal at 4:05 and 4:35 p.m., serve Yonge & Sheppard, then run express to Square One GO Bus Terminal arriving at 4:50 and 5:25 p.m.

A new weekday westbound trip will depart Finch at 5:20 p.m., make all stops, and arrive at Oakville at 6:55 p.m. The 5:35 p.m. trip from Finch will now depart at 5:50 p.m., arrive into Oakville at 7:25 p.m., and times will be 15 minutes earlier at all stops along the route.

21 – MILTON GO BUS SERVICE
A new Saturday trip will depart Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 7:20 a.m., making all stops, and arriving at Milton GO Station at 9:00 a.m.

We're also adding six new trips between Meadowvale GO Station and Union Station GO Bus Terminal on Sundays.

31 – GEORGETOWN GO TRAIN & BUS SERVICE
The westbound train that departs Union Station at 3:15 p.m. will now depart at 3:10 p.m., and times will be five minutes earlier at all stops along the route.

The Friday bus trips departing the University of Guelph at 1:55 and 4:55 p.m. to Brampton Bus Terminal will resume.

The 12:30 and 1:30 a.m. westbound bus trips from Union Station GO Bus Terminal will now only stop upon request between Hurontario & Bovaird in Brampton and Georgetown GO Station.

32 – BRAMPTON TRINITY COMMON GO BUS SERVICE
A new weekday westbound trip will depart Yonge & Sheppard at 5:15 p.m., make all stops, and arrive at Trinity Common at 6:15 p.m. Georgetown line train customers traveling to Trinity Common may depart the westbound train at 5:49 p.m. at Bramalea GO Station to connect with this bus trip.

37 – ORANGEVILLE GO BUS SERVICE
The weekday northbound 4:05 p.m. trip from Brampton GO Station will now depart at 4:00 p.m., and times will be five minutes earlier at all stops along the route.

38 – BOLTON-HWY. 50 GO BUS SERVICE
Three new weekday southbound trips will depart Bolton (Hwy. 50 & Columbia Way) at 9:35 a.m., 11:35 a.m., and 1:05 p.m., and connect to eastbound Georgetown train service at the Malton GO Station.

Three new weekday northbound trips to Bolton will depart the Malton GO Station at 10:03 a.m., 12:03 p.m., and 1:33 p.m., and connect to westbound Georgetown train service.

The weekday 3:48 p.m. northbound bus trip from Malton will now depart at 3:43 p.m., and times will be five minutes earlier at all stops along the route.

46 – HWY. 407 WEST GO BUS SERVICE
There will be new weekday trips, changes to some existing trips, and more Sunday and holiday Monday trips between York University and Hamilton.

50 – U OF T SCARBOROUGH–CENTENNIAL COLLEGE GO BUS SERVICE
Weekday service will resume between Unionville GO Station, Centennial College, and U of T Scarborough.

52 – HWY. 407 EAST GO BUS SERVICE
There will be new weekday trips and changes to some existing trips.

64 – NEWMARKET-YORK UNIVERSITY GO BUS SERVICE
The weekday northbound 2:35 and 3:30 p.m. trips from York University to Newmarket GO Bus Terminal and weekday southbound 8:35 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. trips from Newmarket to York will resume.

71 – STOUFFVILLE GO TRAIN & BUS SERVICE
The new Lincolnville GO Station located on Bethesda Sideroad at 10th Line opens on Tuesday, September 2. The new station is accessible and has parking for over 150 cars. Starting Saturday, August 30, buses will use the new bus loop at the station instead of the stop on the street.

Uxbridge buses will now connect to weekday train service at Lincolnville instead of at Stouffville and Mount Joy, and bus trips between these stations will be discontinued. Although the Markville Mall and Dickson's Hill stops will no longer be shown in the timetable, buses will continue to serve both locations.

There will also be time changes to some northbound train trips, so be sure to check the new schedule.

93 – DURHAM COLLEGE-UOIT GO BUS SERVICE
Weekday service will resume between Scarborough Town Centre and campus with new trips added.

MINOR TRAIN SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENTS
We're making minor updates to some train schedules to better reflect the typical arrival times at Union Station.

***ON LABOUR DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, WE'LL BE OPERATING ON A HOLIDAY SCHEDULE.**

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NBA

Former Portland Trail Blazers centre Kevin Duckworth died on Monday while on a trip to the Oregon Coast to host a free basketball clinic. He was 44. The cause of death remains to be determined by a medical examiner. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Edu's Rangers debut to come in Glasgow derby

SOCCER Former Toronto FC midfielder Maurice Edu is set to make his Glasgow Rangers debut in Sunday's Old Firm derby against Celtic in the Scottish Premier League.

Edu

Edu, 22, completed his $5-million US transfer from the Major League Soccer squad last week after being granted a British work permit. The American is expected to arrive in Scotland by tomorrow.

Rangers manger Walter Smith is eager to deploy him against Celtic. The Glasgow rivals are tied at seven points atop the SPL after three games.

"If we can get him over in good time then I have no doubt that he would be involved on Sunday at some stage," Smith said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ivanovic shakes off rust

Top seed avoids upset loss to Dushevina at U.S. Open

Ana Ivanovic raised her racket, ready for an easy overhead slam in what was shaping up as an easy match.

Then she somehow spiked the ball right into the net from just a few feet away.

Out of whack lately because of an injured right thumb, the world No. 1 was suddenly out of sorts. Ivanovic recovered in time yesterday to avoid becoming the first top-seeded woman to lose in the first round at the U.S. Open, rallying past Vera Dushevina 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

"I could feel some shots, lack of practise," Ivanovic said.

Serena Williams took a more direct approach. Favoured by oddsmakers to win the women's title, she overwhelmed Kateryna Bondarenko with her serve in a 6-1, 6-4 victory.

Wearing bright red, the fourth-seeded Williams was dressed for an afternoon workout — chances are, she'll reveal her more elegant outfits at evening matches. The two-time U.S. Open champion is ready to dominate the Grand Slam event she last won in 2002.

"I don't even remember holding up the trophy," she said. "I didn't even know I won this tournament."

Seventh-seeded Venus Williams advanced, too, beating Samantha Stosur 6-2, 6-3. Like her younger sister, she's twice won this Open.

"I've had a chance to play and be healthy, so I'm excited to be here," the elder Williams said.

Sixth-seeded Dinara Safina of Russia, No. 9 Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, No. 13 Agnes Szavay of Hungary and No. 16 Flavia Pennetta of Italy won. Anna-Lena Groenefeld of Germany beat No. 11 Daniela Hantuchova.

No. 13 Fernando Verdasco of Spain, No. 14 Ivo Karlovic of Croatia and No. 15 Tommy Robredo of Spain won. Tommy Haas of Germany beat No. 12 Richard Gasquet of France 6-7 (3), 6-4, 5-7, 7-5, 6-2 and Sam Querrey beat No. 22 Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-1, 6-2. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World No. 1 Ana Ivanovic of Serbia returns a shot to Vera Dushevina of Russia during their opening-round match yesterday at the U.S. Open. Ivanovic went on to win 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

Kane not convinced LPGA's English rule is answer

GOLF Lorie Kane believes members of the LPGA Tour already have a universal language — golf.

But the LPGA thinks differently. It will require golfers to speak English starting in 2009, with players who have been members for two years facing suspension if they can't pass an oral evaluation of English skills.

"I am of a strong belief that, yes, we need to learn to communicate," Kane, a 12-year tour veteran, told The Canadian Press yesterday. "But whether or not you can communicate shouldn't determine whether or not you have a card on the LPGA Tour."

Kane

The tour held a mandatory meeting with South Koreans at the Safeway Classic last Wednesday to inform them of the new policy, which will be finalized with a detailed criteria by season's end.

There are 121 international players from 26 countries on the LPGA Tour, including 45 players from South Korea. With such diversity, the tour sees the policy as a necessary step for its players.

"Why now? Athletes now have more responsibilities and we want to help their professional development," deputy commissioner Libba Galloway told The Associated Press. "There are more fans, more media and more sponsors. We want to help our athletes as best we can succeed off the golf course as well as on it."

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Automotive

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Bimmer style on budget

Affordable 1 Series Coupe can make BMW dreams real for many car lovers

BILL MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

The tidy little 1 Series Coupe leads the way in BMW's return to a smaller, lighter, more affordable car, slotting nicely below the increasingly larger, heavier and more expensive 3 Series models that currently earn the German automaker's bread and butter.

Though a range of engine options are available in other markets, we're only getting a pair of 1 Series models: The 128i with a 230-horsepower, 3.0-litre, in-line six under its hood, and the 135i, which has a superb 300-hp, twin-turbo version of the same 3.0-litre unit.

In its coupe body style, the 1 Series starts at $33,900 for the base 128i while the twin-turbo 135i carries a proportionately higher $41,700 sticker price to reflect its added performance and equipment levels.

There are also a couple convertible versions, too: The 128i Cabriolet carries a sticker price of $39,900 for your top-down driving pleasure while its range-topping 135i counterpart is priced at $47,200.

The crisp, clean lines and compact shape of the Coupe are quite attractive to the eye with its long hood, trapezoidal greenhouse, clearly defined shoulder line and long wheelbase.

It looks fast even while standing still.

Inside, the perfectly-sized steering wheel, short gear lever, circular instruments and high-quality materials are all as eye-catching as they are functionals.

Depending on the option package(s) you choose, tech toys abound, including optional Bluetooth phone integration, navigation, and iDrive. Oddly, though — despite an included auxiliary input jack — the lack of cubbyholes in the centre console might mean your iPod Touch has to sit in one of the cupholders.

Talking about how the crisp-looking coupe drives is a matter of mixed messages.

On the plus side it does handle very nicely indeed. The engine in the 135i snarls musically with … ah, shall we say, eager throttle applications.

Heel-and-toe downshifts from the standard six-speed manual transmission are a blast, and the world is simply a series of highly entertaining corners. All that performance doesn't come with a hefty penalty at the pumps either: We saw around 10 L/100 km even with enthusiastic use.

On the down side was ride quality, perhaps a little too stiff for "normal" everyday driving needs.

Despite such minor quibbles, the 1 Series Coupe is surely something to salivate over. It looks great. It's agile afoot.

And excellent handling, precise steering and ideal weight distribution give it a real sporting character. If you like sports-style driving, taking a seat in the 1 Series will feel like coming home.

The crisp, clean lines and compact shape of the Coupe are quite attractive to the eye. Inside, the perfectly-sized steering wheel, short gear lever, circular instruments and high-quality materials are all as eye-catching as they are functional.

2008 BMW 1 Series Coupe

Type: Compact 2-pass. coupe, RWD
Price: $33,900 – $41,700
Engine: 3.0L L6 DOHC/3.0L L6 DOHC twin-turbo
HP: 230 @ 6,500 rpm/300 @ 5,800 rpm
Torque: 200 @ 2,750 rpm/300 @ 1,400 rpm

Highlights

- The BMW experience on a budget
- 135i is a poor man's M3
- Great engines
- Muscular looks
- Handling

Chevrolet is loaning 100 Equinox Fuel Cell electric vehicles to U.S. drivers for feedback on the car.

Drive putting fuel cell tech to test

As environmental awareness increases, so does the need for better fuel alternatives. One of those energy sources is getting a lot of buzz — and moving from laboratory testing to the road.

Hydrogen fuel cells are electric energy sources that have the potential to power everything from cellphones to large buildings.

For cars, they provide zero-emission power and don't use any oil.

And although actual hydrogen fuel vehicles are a few years down the road, most major auto manufacturers have already started hydrogen programs.

A new campaign, called "Project Driveway," is putting fuel cell technology to practice in the largest market test ever.

As part of the project, Chevrolet is loaning 100 Equinox Fuel Cell electric vehicles to select families across the U.S.

The pioneering drivers will give feedback on the overall operation and feeling of the car, while generating public awareness and exposure to fuel cell vehicles.

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Lessons for teen car buyers

Young drivers need to do research before purchase

Teenagers in the market for their first vehicle usually buy used. To avoid vehicles with tampered odometers or hidden damage, they really need to do their homework.

"Young people are often the most vulnerable because they're excited about buying their first vehicle and might not always know where to look or know what questions to ask," says Brenda McIntyre of the Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council (OMVIC).

Believing they can get a better deal buying privately, they may decide to surf the classifieds rather than buy from a registered dealer.

Although there are deals to be had, the classifieds aren't without risks.

"Studies have shown that 25 per cent or more of classified ads may be placed by curbsiders — unregistered dealers who misrepresent the vehicles they sell," McIntyre says.

OMVIC is the regulatory and licensing body responsible for enforcing the Motor Vehicle Dealers Act — a statute that regulates dealers while protecting consumers.

OMVIC also administers the Motor Vehicle Dealers Compensation Fund, a consumer protection fund that reimburses consumers, under certain circumstances, for problems arising from motor vehicle transactions. This fund applies only to transactions with a registered dealer.

"When people choose to buy from a private seller instead of a registered dealer, they risk becoming a curbsider's victim," says McIntyre.

There are some easy steps to take to minimize that risk, however. By law, private sellers must obtain a Used Vehicle Information Package (UVIP) from the Ministry of Transportation and provide it to prospective buyers. The UVIP contains important information about a vehicle's history in Ontario. If the seller can't provide the UVIP, or if the ownership is in someone else's name, walk away from the deal.

Buyers should also consider obtaining a vehicle history report from CarProof (www.carproof.com) or CARFAX (www.carfax.com).

NEWS CANADA

Know Your Ride

•In an effort to help young people looking for their first vehicle, OMVIC has launched Know Your Ride, a program targeted toward teens. The program is intended to be integrated into Grade 10 civics classes throughout Ontario and features materials, including a DVD, to help teachers educate teens about what to look out for when buying their first vehicle. Students and teachers interested in learning more can go online to www.omvic.on.ca.

Teenagers in the market for their first car are often the most vulnerable to tampered odometers or hidden damage, experts say.

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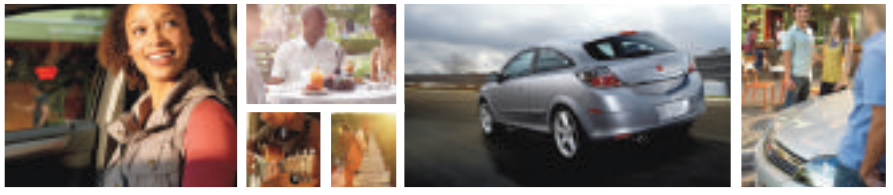

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All that, and practicality, too

Retro-looking Chevrolet HHR SS is a usable ride for everyday people

BILL MCLAUCHLAN
for Metro Canada

Beneath its retro appearance, the HHR is simply a nicely executed station wagon. Think of it as a Chevrolet Cobalt wagon in drag, as it's based on the same solid architecture as the popular Chevy coupe/sedan.

Thanks to its retro shape, the interior is roomy and comfortable, the rear seatbacks fold fully flat and the cargo deck is hard-surfaced … all of which makes the HHR a usable ride for everyday people and cargo hauling chores. In that respect, the well-equipped base LS and LT models — at $19,855 and $21,185, respectively — represent nicely packaged value.

Both trim levels include standard features such as air conditioning, power windows, door locks and mirrors, cruise control, remote keyless entry, electronic stability control, ABS and traction control.

In its milder LS and LT guise, the HHR is pleasant to drive, with a good balance between ride and handling. The base engine is a fuel-efficient 155-hp, 2.2-litre "four" while there's a 172-hp, 2.4-litre four-cylinder optional choice (standard on the step-up LT 1SC trim). Transmission choices are standard five-speed manual or optional four-speed automatic.

In its milder LS and LT guise, the Chevrolet HHR is pleasant to drive, with a good balance between ride and handling. Inside, below, there's a feeling of roominess.

By the way, new for '09, those engines are Flex Fuel capable, meaning they can run on E85 ethanol, gasoline or any combination of the two fuels. Also, the 2.2-litre engine receives variable valve timing technology that optimizes performance and efficiency.

The $28,240 HHR SS, first seen in the 2008 model year, adds turbocharged zest with a 260-hp output from its 2.0-litre four. To help handle this extra performance the SS rides on a racetrack-tuned suspension system, giving it a modern athleticism that contrasts sharply with the retro styling.

Even so, you won't sacrifice anything in ride comfort for such driving entertainment. Body motions are tautly controlled. The steering has a pleasing blend of precision, feel, response and effort.

Inside, there's a feeling of roominess, with the high roofline providing plenty of headroom. Quality is also conveyed in the well-bolstered sport seats, which provide firm support yet plenty of comfort for long drives.

The short-throw manual shifter, which sits higher and farther forward, has a nice precise feel. A smaller-diameter steering wheel — sporting an SS logo plus radio and other control features — complements the precise steering action.

There's also a turbo boost gauge mounted on the windshield pillar, 225 km/h speedometer, driver information centre located in the gauge cluster, SS-specific satin nickel cabin trim accents and contrasting interior colours that contribute to the SS's sporty look.

In its SS form, the HHR is a splendid compromise. It's fast and agile enough to gratify your inner Andretti, yet its relatively serene highway stride and quiet composure over rough pavement should keep passengers happy.

All that, and practicality, too.

2009 Chevrolet HHR SS

Type: Compact 5-pass. wagon FWD
Price: $28,240
Engine: 2.0L L4 DOHC Turbo
HP: 260 @ 5,300 rpm
Torque: 260 @ 2,000 rpm

Highlights

- Funky retro look
- Standard safety and stability control system
- Interior room
- Cargo flexibility

GM lists price for new Aveo5

GM Canada has ended the suspense, announcing its pricing for the all-new 2009 Chevrolet Aveo5 hatchback. You can now purchase the Aveo5 for as little as $10,470 under a special cash-only offer.

"The cash price is down, but the features and capability of the Aveo have gone way up," said Marc Comeau, vice-president of sales, service and marketing for GM of Canada. "Its refined new engine helps boost fuel economy by as much as 10 per cent and the Aveo5 offers more content, more refinement and a much better driving experience.

"Combined with its versatility, low ownership costs and leading coverage, the 2009 Aveo5 offers unmatched value in its class."

An all-new exterior and interior look brings new refinement and is combined with a better driving experience and a comprehensive range of safety, comfort, convenience and entertainment features. As well, extensive measures were incorporated to reduce noise, vibration and harshness to ensure a quiet, comfortable, yet responsive ride.

The Aveo is also available as a sedan with prices ranging from $13,270 for the base LS model to $15,770 on the up-level Aveo LT.

Steve Burgess became the first person in history to successfully cross the Bering Straits in a road vehicle earlier this year.

Farmer drives, sails into record books

Steve Burgess, a farmer from West Yorkshire, England, has put himself and his Land Rover Defender into the record books by becoming the first person in history to successfully cross the Bering Straits in a road vehicle.

Earlier this year, the 52-year-old Burgess, travelled 16,700 kilometres in 50 days to the Easternmost tip of Russia in temperatures as low as -46 C.

Then, in a masterstroke that differs from others who tried the voyage before, instead of trying to cross the Straits while they were covered with ice, he simply waited for it to melt in the summer.

Once that happened, he strapped two huge floats on the sides of his Defender, added a motor and propeller on the back and sailed across the 90-kilometre stretch of water, pausing on the island of Little Diomede as the weather closed in, before continuing a few weeks later when conditions improved.

"It's been a phenomenal trip," said Burgess. "I can't say it was all enjoyable — I wouldn't do it again — but it has been incredible.

"Landing on Wales was brilliant. It was the culmination of nearly nine years work, and to be the first to get across was incredible.

"I'd watched other people before me try to do it — rich people, big companies — and I thought, 'How am I going to square up to these people?' But I showed them how it's done."

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Hyundai takes a gamble

They admit the timing isn't great to bring out a big luxury car to compete with BMW, Lexus and Mercedes, but Hyundai Motor Co. executives are hoping the new Genesis sedan will catch on with a specific group of buyers.

PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hyundai executives are hoping the new Genesis sedan, seen here at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit earlier this year, will catch on with a specific group of buyers.

"Confident nonconformists," said John Krafcik, vice-president of product development for Hyundai North America. "They're folks who don't typically need the social badge of a premium brand. They're confident in themselves and in their own skin."

Conformist or not, there were far fewer luxury buyers out there in the first seven months of this year due to high gas prices, tighter credit requirements, economic uncertainty and declining home values that have cut into the typical buyer's net worth.

Luxury car sales are down nearly 15 per cent from the same period last year, and industry analysts say it doesn't look like recovery is coming anytime soon. In addition, leasing, used by about half of U.S. premium vehicle buyers, is getting more difficult and likely will further cut into the market.

Enter the Genesis, which started hitting showrooms in small numbers at the end of June.

"The timing isn't the best," said Aaron Bragman, an auto analyst with the consulting company Global Insight.

Yet Krafcik said the Genesis, which was painstakingly engineered to be lighter, quicker, quieter and handle better than most competitors, should be able to attract buyers in a tough market due to its price, features and performance.

A six-cylinder Genesis has a base price of $32,250 US, with the soon-to-arrive V-8 starting at $37,250, excluding freight. That's at least $10,000 less than high-end competitors, but more than the price of what Hyundai considers its primary competition, cars like the Pontiac G8 ($26,910 with a V-6) and Chrysler 300 ($25,150 also with a V-6).

Analysts say the Genesis is competitive with even Mercedes, BMW and Lexus, with high-quality materials and great driving dynamics. But Bragman said it doesn't have the prestige of the high-end brands that luxury buyers often seek.

"It all does come down to the badge," said Jeff Schuster, executive director of global forecasting for J.D. Power and Associates. "How much will the Hyundai badge deter buyers who want a premium vehicle?"

Volkswagen, Bragman said, failed when it tried to enter the luxury market with the $70,000 Phaeton earlier this decade, and Hyundai faces the same brand-image obstacle.

"It was an extremely expensive vehicle with a Volkswagen badge on it," Bragman said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Honda Fit attempts to raise the bar

SUBCOMPACT The 2009 Honda Fit is set to go on sale across Canada on Sept. 15 with a Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price of $14,980.

It features an enhanced sporty demeanour, sure to increase its fun-to-drive character through a more powerful engine and improved suspension, steering and body rigidity.

The new Fit is designed to "raise the bar" in the Canadian subcompact market by taking what is already great about the Fit and making it even better, said Jerry Chenkin, executive vice-president of Honda Canada Inc.

Prices range from $14,980 for the entry-level Fit DX with manual transmission to the $20,480 Fit Sport model with five-speed automatic.

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Think beyond SUVs

Alternatives let you enjoy big car convenience

If you love the safety and driving confidence of an SUV, but cringe at the cost of filling the tank, we've got good news for you.

It's possible to get the advantages of a four-wheel-drive system — especially great traction in a wide variety of weather and road conditions — in all-wheel-drive vehicles that combine the 4WD performance of a truck with the fuel economy, performance and handling, and easy-to-park dimensions of a car.

There are many reasons it takes a lot of gas to run a traditional SUV: Most are built on truck platforms, so they're large and heavy; it takes a big engine to move all that weight around; and, because less aerodynamic than most cars, SUVs have to work harder to overcome air resistance.

Fortunately, there are alternatives, such as the Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system from Subaru. This is a full-time system that combines a powerful aluminum boxer engine, a strong but lightweight transmission and centre differential, and an aerodynamic alloy body frame that's designed for maximum occupant protection. The result is a great combination of strength for safety and rigidity for handling and durability.

New technology, such as the Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system from Subaru, gives the advantages of a four-wheel drive without having to pick up an SUV's fuel bill.

Tips to reduce gas consumption

- Maintain your vehicle: It will run smoother and waste less energy.
- Slow down: You use 20 per cent more fuel going 120 km/h compared to 100 km/h.
- Check tire pressure: The wrong pressure can increase gas use up to 3 per cent.
- Don't idle: If you're going to sit for more than 30 seconds, turn the engine off.
- Plan trips: Do more than one errand at a time; pick routes with fewer stoplights and less traffic.

Just as important, this Symmetrical AWD system is designed to be extremely compact and well-balanced, with a low centre of gravity. That means a very low risk of rollover — and makes room for a long-travel suspension that keeps the ride comfortable even on life's bumpiest roads. And fuel economy is competitive with North America's most popular compact and mid-size family cars.

So, if you want great traction and handling and great fuel economy, an all-wheel-drive vehicle is an excellent choice.

NEWS CANADA

Ford kick-starts Fiesta production

Ford has begun production of its all-new Fiesta model, the first in a portfolio of global small cars, at the Cologne Stamping and Assembly plant in Germany.

The next-generation Ford Fiesta, destined for the North American market in 2010, was developed by the European arm of the automaker's global product development team to meet the demands and expectations of customers around the world.

The Cologne plant is the first Ford assembly facility in the world to build the new global car.

In North America, the new subcompact will be offered in two models: A hatchback and a two-door sedan.

They will be built at the company's Cuautitlan Assembly Plant in Mexico in 2010. Retooling the plant from its current production of F-Series trucks to small car production will begin in December.

A Ford Fiesta being built at the firm's Cologne plant.

Toyota improves Sienna

Toyota has made its Sienna better for the 2009 model year and given it more appeal by lowering the suggested retail price on all models.

Now you can choose between fuel-efficient front-wheel drive and the extra confidence of all-wheel drive, and opt for seven- or eight-seat cabin configurations.

With as many as seven models and a variety of trim levels to suit every taste and budget, the Sienna may be the ideal choice for Canadians in need of great family transportation.

To make things better, the company has lowered the introductory pricing for the '09 version by as much as $1,500 versus the comparable 2008 model.

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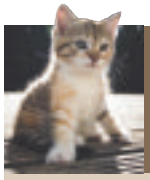

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Time is counting down on Trafalgar's fuel-surcharge saving offer. You have until Aug. 31 to book an air-inclusive vacation that departs before Dec. 31, 2008, and you can save $300 per couple. See trafalgar.com for more details. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Insider's eats

No traveller wants to pay an exorbitant price for lacklustre food, but that indignity always seems worse when you're in a destination known for its gastronomic prowess. The September issue of Gourmet magazine — which is dedicated to exploring Paris on a budget — can help you avoid such a predicament. Some of the content is also posted at gourmet.com/travel/cityguides/paris. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

The view from atop Gros Morne

Lush vistas, unique wildlife reward those who brave the trek

It's been a strenuous trek to the 806-metre summit of Gros Morne, the highest peak in the national park along Newfoundland's stunning west coast — and a just-arrived group of hikers find their stomachs are rumbling with hunger. One of the group jokingly suggests hitting the fast-food joint just around the corner.

It's an absurd notion in any wilderness, but particularly so here along this unique Arctic-alpine landscape where green vistas and towering cliffs overlooking water stretch as far as the eye can see.

Even surrounded by other hikers one feels like the only person on Earth at the summit.

"There's the obvious visual splendour of coming to this magnificent view over one of those fiord lakes, those glacially carved valleys," says Sheldon Stone, a park interpreter.

"It's also, ecologically, really interesting. You start at sea level and you're in pretty typical boreal forest for Newfoundland ... and eventually you come into Arctic tundra."

The flat-topped mountain offers one of the longest and most gruelling hikes in the park, which earned a UNESCO world heritage designation in 1987 thanks to its extraordinary geology.

MELANIE PATTEN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The view from Gros Morne Mountain's summit, looking down at Ten Mile Pond in western Newfoundland.

> "You start at sea level and you're in pretty typical boreal forest for Newfoundland ... and eventually you come into Arctic tundra."
> Sheldon Stone

Stone says visitors have access to some 18 other trails in the park, but each year thousands of adventurers can't resist conquering the Gros Morne Mountain Trail.

The 16-kilometre round trip starts at a parking lot equipped with an outhouse at the trailhead. The entire hike can take about eight hours to complete.

Be forewarned, the two partially enclosed outhouses along the trail don't offer much in the way of cleanliness or privacy.

The park suggests hikers bring along a number of items: Warm clothing and a windbreaker, preferably waterproof, to deal with unpredictable weather; food; two litres of water per person; a first aid kit; and a map and compass.

Sunscreen is also a good idea and sturdy footwear is a must for the angular rocks that lead hikers to the top of the mountain.

The mountain itself is closed to hikers until the beginning of July to protect wildlife and give the soil a chance to dry.

The first portion of the trail, named after former British prime minister James Callaghan, is a satisfying, half-day hike that takes visitors through a scenic, wooded area.

There are boardwalks over wet spots and staircases made of rocks and wood to ease the climb. You eventually emerge from the woods and Gros Morne comes into sight. From this distance, hikers on the mountain look like tiny ants clambering over a boulder.

This part of the trail ends at a so-called decision point where hikers determine whether it's safe to continue.

The peak can become obscured by fog and hikers are warned not to tempt fate by climbing the mountain — the second highest in the province — if they can't see the top, or if there's not enough time to return before dark.

"Do not underestimate the mountain," reads a sign. From here, you're challenged by a steep ascent up a gully of mostly loose, fallen quartzite.

Increasingly spectacular views of the Bonne Bay fiord and the rust-coloured rocks of the Tablelands, which were originally deep beneath the ocean and now rest on land, beckon hikers upwards.

At the top, hikers are given a chance to experience Arctic tundra without having to travel to the Far North. Plants and animals, like the Arctic hare and rock ptarmigan, can be spotted here.

A lone, woodland caribou grazes in the distance, ignoring the small group of hikers passing along a trail marked by rock cairns.

The group of hungry hikers takes in the dizzying, bird's-eye view of Ten Mile Pond, but doesn't linger for long. After all, they're only halfway done.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gros Morne National Park

- Getting there: There's an entrance kiosk to Gros Morne National Park at Wiltondale. The parking lot to the trail is located seven kilometres east of Rocky Harbour, which is 30 minutes north of Wiltondale along Route 430.
- Cost: The entry fee to the park for adults from May to October is $9.80. Fees will be reassessed on April 1, 2009.
- Accommodations: There are a number of campgrounds throughout the park. Additional fees are charged for camping, with varying prices depending on the site. Reservations are recommended.
- Visit pc.gc.ca/pn-np/nl/gros-morne/index-E.asp

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Transylvanian farm life reflects a simpler time

TheTravelJunkie

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Left, horse-drawn carriages are a typical sight in Trove. Right, a traditional "good room."

A visit to the tiny Romanian town of Türé (or Turea) is like travelling back in time.

Horse-drawn carriages packed full with freshly cut hay trot along bumpy dirt roads. Craggy old people with craggy old faces make picture-perfect postcards of a simpler time. Grandmothers milk cows, churn butter, have wells in their backyards and know their way around a plow.

If it weren't for the satellite dishes growing out of houses like mushrooms on cow patties, you might think you'd been transported back to the early 1900s. A surprising number of people here lack running water and indoor plumbing but, with the wonders of modern technology, they can tune into stations like MTV.

Having just come from cosmopolitan Bucharest — where Ferrari-lined streets, fashionable coffee houses and could-be-supermodels are common — this was the "simple life."

Julia's tips

- Carpathian Tours offers customized cultural vacations through the Hungarian, Slovakian and Romanian countryside. Visit carpathiantours.com.au.

"If it weren't for the satellite dishes growing out of houses like mushrooms on cow patties, you might think you'd been transported back to the early 1900s."

I found myself in this Transylvanian village as part of a two-day home-stay run by Carpathian Tours. Australian-owned, this company offers customized cultural vacations through the Hungarian, Slovakian and Romanian countryside.

It's a chance to learn about the music, dance and social practices of the area — all with the help of a translator and knowledgeable guide. Accommodations may be humble (my room had no door and the bathroom looked more like a tool shed) but, by staying with the local people, I'm able to get an insider's view.

My crash course in traditional Transylvanian culture starts with breakfast. Here in Türé, early morning risers enjoy buffalo cheese, thick slices of white bread, pork sausage and a shot of Pálinka.

This local brandy brew gets the day started off right and is sipped on with each meal. It's considered rude if you turn down the offering, so, despite having just brushed my teeth, I reach for the shot glass and started boozing. It goes down my throat in one gulp, burning my insides with the pang of cheap tequila.

Pleasing my host, the guide and I (admittedly, a bit tipsy) venture into town. Shepherds guide buffalo into the village so they can be milked by their owners. They make their way down a mist-covered hill, mooing and jangling their cowbell necklaces.

Though I'm excited by the prospect of milking one myself, I find out the buffalos are quite skittish and don't let strangers ogle their udders.

From there, we visit a traditional "good room." It's an elaborately decorated living room used for entertaining guests and matching prospective boy suitors with unmarried girls. The room is stacked with embroidered blankets, tablecloths and doilies, all hand spun from wool, cotton or hemp.

Cabinets are hand-painted, stencilled in red, white and green (a symbol of the Hungarian flag) with recurring motifs of roses, tulips and green branches. Though it's impressive, this crafty form of home-making has been abandoned by the new generation.

In the time of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu (leader from 1965-89), expression of Hungarian culture and music was forbidden. As a result, much of the local culture was lost.

My two-day tour of Transylvania had me tossing hay with a pitchfork, step-dancing to live village music and picnicking with Pálinka under a full moon.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN, and editor of thetraveljunkie.ca.

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Fare trendsetter
Southwest Airlines Co. has published its schedule and fares for early next year, a move that could spur rivals to lower their fares for the period. Recently, the Dallas-based carrier issued its schedule and prices for Jan. 9 through March 6. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cruising the Arctic in record numbers

Nunavut communities seeing large influx of cruise tourists this summer

Polar bears and glaciers may be icons of northern climate change but they are also swelling the sails of Nunavut's tourism industry. A record number of cruise ships are plying Canada's Eastern Arctic this summer and some remote communities are welcoming an average of two a week.

Industry and government officials say there's still plenty of room for growth, but they're also cautious of overwhelming tiny hamlets with populations barely larger than those in the ships moored off their shores.

"You kind of wonder if you're in a museum sometimes," said Mike Richards, senior administrative officer in Pond Inlet on the northern tip of Baffin Island, where 14 boatloads of the camera-toting curious are expected to have docked between the end of July and the beginning of September.

A total of 26 cruises have been scheduled for this season — four more than last year, said Mark Young of the territorial government. That's more than 3,000 visitors sailing the Arctic and dropping in on communities from Grise Fiord to Kimmirut.

Those figures are tiny compared to cruise boats in Greenland, which expects 55,000 tourists this season in ships that can accommodate more than 2,000 passengers.

But for Nunavut, small is beautiful, said Prisca Campbell of Quark Expeditions, which has been running polar tours since 1991. "We're not keen to change the Arctic to accommodate 2,000-passenger ships," she said.

Wildlife and majestic scenery are probably the main draws for most Arctic tourists, but cultural exchange is also part of it. Cruise directors get in touch with local officials and residents often pull together a program to entertain visitors.

"(We do) bannock-making, sealskin-cleaning, carving demonstrations — things that tourists might be interested in," said Akeego Ikkidluak, Kimmirut's senior administrative officer.

Inuit sports such as the high kick and cultural activities that include throat singing are also demonstrated. Guides take people around town — not that most Arctic communities offer much in the way of shopping, dining or architectural delight.

"They're usually horrified by the price we pay for groceries and necessities," said Richards. "They just kind of wander around looking at these shabby old buildings and think, 'How do people live like this?'"

Sometimes, children follow the visitors and ask for handouts. "You can't control the kids."

Those are the kinds of impacts tour operators try to avoid, said Jillian Dickens of Cruise North, an Inuit-owned sailing operator since 2005. "I don't think it's a good thing to encourage," she said.

"We have to be really careful about respecting the communities. What's important is communication between the ship and the community to have equal benefit."

Tourists do drop about $250,000 into Nunavut's cash-starved economy. Most goes to carvers and other artists, but performers and tour guides are also paid."It brings in a big influx of cash in the summer," said Young. "(Tourists) could drop close to $40,000 in one community in one six-hour stay."

The money is welcome, said Ikkidluak. "It's not a big, big deal, but it's a deal." THE CANADIAN PRESS

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nunavut communities such as Pond Inlet, above, are reaping the benefits — and drawbacks — of increased cruise ship traffic.

"It brings in a big influx of cash in the summer ... tourists could drop close to $40,000 in one community in one six-hour stay."
Mark Young

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Giving back

Planeterra, G.A.P Adventures' non-profit foundation, has raised funds to donate to the Seva Canada Society, an international NGO dedicated to eliminating preventable and treatable blindness. The funds will support an eye camp in Tibet, which has one of the highest incidences of blindness in the world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

London, mecca of ethical dining

A new crop of eateries serves up guilt-free gastronomy

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

Chef-owner Oliver Rowe presides over Konstam at Prince Albert, which sources more than 85 per cent of its ingredients from within Greater London. Right, some of the guilt-free fare on display at Acorn House, a restaurant run by two former employees of Jamie Oliver's Fifteen restaurant.

The British are obsessed with ethical eating. They worry about how far produce has had to fly to get to their dining room table, and are obsessed with eating food that's in season, organic and ecologically-sustainable.

They want their fish to come from sustainable stock, their eggs to come from chickens that live in fields not cages, and their meat to come from happy cows reared by fairly-paid farm workers.

Even celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay has called for a ban on fruit and vegetables that are out of season.

In London, a new raft of restaurants satiates the demand for guilt-free gastronomy. The eateries prove you don't have to eat mung beans and brown rice in a hippie-style hangout to be ethical.

The first high-profile ethical enterprise of this sort was Jamie Oliver's Fifteen, a training restaurant established five years ago that offered an opportunity to disadvantaged young people — homeless, unemployed or overcoming addictions. Now, two former employees of Fifteen have set up London's first eco restaurants as a welcome pioneer in an industry that is responsible for flying ingredients all over the world, throwing away tonnes of wasted food and generating mountains of rubbish.

Head chef Arthur Potts Dawson and general manager Jamie Grainger-Smith's pioneering restaurant Acorn House in King's Cross trains up to 10 young people — locals, of course — in the eco-friendly restaurant trade while raising the ecological bar by using recycled products and eco-friendly paint and cleaning products, reducing waste, purifying water on site and using green electricity.

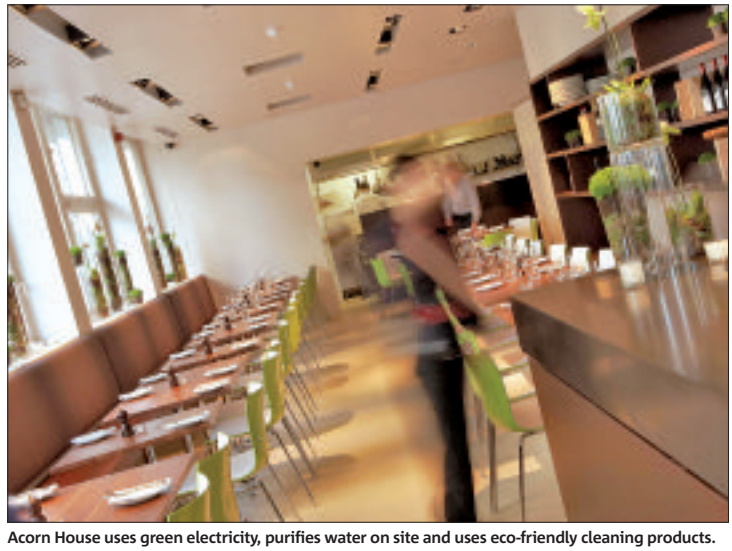
Their second restaurant, The Waterhouse, takes things even further, claiming to be the first ever entirely carbon neutral restaurant.

It uses the water flow from the Hackney canal it overlooks to power its generator and air conditioning, tables are made from fallen trees, worms turn kitchen leftovers into compost for use in their roof garden, and menus are created using sustainably-sourced, homegrown seasonal produce. (acornhouserestaurant.com, waterhouserestaurant.co.uk.)

Over at Konstam at Prince Albert, chef-owner Oliver Rowe offers the most London of culinary experiences, with more than 85 per cent of its ingredients sourced from within Greater London.

Rowe won over the hearts of British culinary fans as his epic mission to source eggs from chickens living under railway arches in the capital, and fish from the Thames Estuary was tracked on a popular TV show and his restaurant has been just as well received.

Read more on page 39 ››



Acorn House uses green electricity, purifies water on site and uses eco-friendly cleaning products.

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Passionate about Pinot? Three Pinot Noir theme cruises being offered in 2009 by California-based Food & Wine Trails will sail the Mediterranean and include private wine dinners, tastings and special events hosted by Pinot Noir winery owners. See foodandwinetrails.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

CHRISTOPH OLBERZ

Preparing food at Jamie Oliver's restaurant Fifteen.

Continued from page 38 »

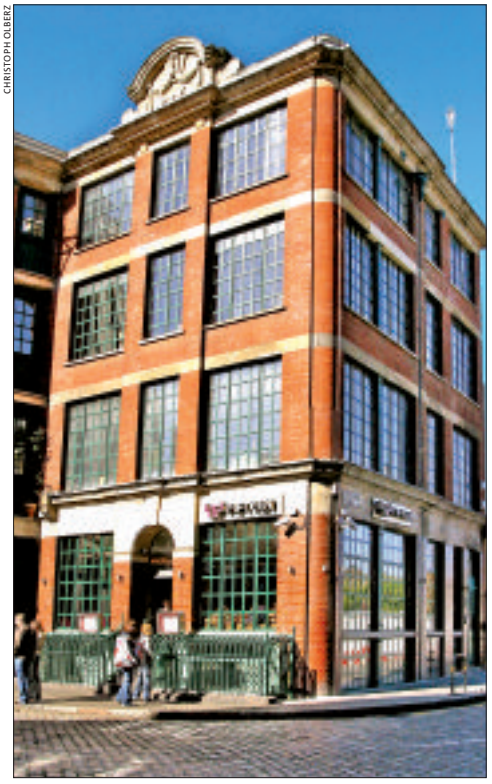
The chic little restaurant with its dramatic metal drapes designed by Thomas Heatherwick has an open kitchen where you can watch the chefs prepare dishes of lamb from Amersham, and chicken from Waltham Abbey, that you can wash down with fine wines — produced in England, of course; konstam.co.uk.

There's also line-caught fish from sustainable stock and fished by family fishing boats at Tom's Place in Chelsea, the posh fish and chip shop run by chef Tom Aitkens, tomsplace.org.uk.

Ethical eating doesn't necessarily come cheap, however. If you're looking for a healthy snack lunch alternative to McDonald's, find a branch of Leon.

This new chain of friendly fast food restaurants offers hearty lunches and dinners at reasonable prices, with a seasonal menu that includes wraps, stews, salads and soups and shows there's more to healthy eating than a dried up lentil bake; leonrestaurants.co.uk.

CHRISTOPH OLBERZ



An exterior view of Jamie Oliver's restaurant Fifteen.

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Free trip for families

Toronto families of children with special needs are getting the chance to enjoy a paid-for getaway. Under the Tourism Toronto program, two families each weekend will leave their child in a provincially-funded respite care centre and enjoy a three-day holiday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A tree's legacy

The tree is no longer there but the place where Tom Thomson sketched his famous painting The Jack Pine can still be appreciated as an important site in Canadian art history.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

The Jack Pine is a celebrated painting by Tom Thomson of a scene on the shore of Grand Lake in Algonquin Park.

In 1916, on the shore of Grand Lake in Algonquin Park, Thomson sketched a gnarled pine and hills in the background. The following winter, Thomson worked the sketch into his celebrated canvas, which is now in the collection of the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa.

A short hike from the Achray campground on the east side of the park leads to the site, says Ron Taylor, publisher of the Ontario travel site 400eleven.com.

"The view is spectacular," Taylor says.

An interpretative sign at the spot shows an image of the painting alongside a photo of the scene in the 1970s. "When you look at both you can see the exact same contours of the hills," says Taylor.

Also nearby there's a shack where Thomson "allegedly slept when he was in that area." As for the famous tree, it met an ignominious end. As the sign states: "Park staff rediscovered the tree, by then dead, in 1970. It subsequently fell and was cut up by campers for firewood."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

- For details on how to get to Achray campground, visit ontarioparks.com/english/algo-campsite.html or call 705-633-5572.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fall Flavours showcases joys of coastal cooking

Chef Michael Smith has become a familiar fixture in the homes of television viewers who have seen him whip up dishes for family and friends from the comfort of his Prince Edward Island kitchen.

But later next month, the genial Food Network host is hoping for a guest list numbering well into the thousands as he extends an invitation to food lovers to visit his home province.

It's all for the launch of a new event showcasing some of P.E.I.'s finest culinary fare.

Fall Flavours — Prince Edward Island, a project of Tourism Charlottetown, is a fine food festival aiming to serve up a holistic approach to the province's cuisine, allowing participants to attend events to learn about and see food's evolution from its raw source to the dinner table.

Fall Flavours organizers have crafted an ambitious schedule for its inaugural year, offering more than 130 interactive culinary events over six days for visitors to indulge in.

"That's really sort of the heartbeat of this festival ... bringing people back to the origins of food."
Chef Michael Smith

For those who don't have the chance to engage with food beyond the supermarket, Smith said he hopes the festival can help to bridge that divide and help individuals reconnect and feel less distant from their food.

"There's sort of a resurgence of interest in local food and in culture and how food relates to culture, and on Prince Edward Island, it's very much a part of what life is like day to day, which is why it is a chef's paradise, and a wonderful place to go to experience food at the source, where it's produced and how it's produced and engage with it on that fundamental level," said Smith during a recent interview at a Toronto private dining room and cooking studio.

"That's really sort of the heartbeat of this festival ... bringing people back to the origins of food and just how exciting it can be to understand where your food comes from and how it's produced and meet the people and learn the stories behind the things that we tend to take for granted." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fall Flavours

- Cultural events at the festival range from free to $12, while culinary events, workshops and signature events range from $15 to $175. Direct to the source product events range from free to $80.
- Fall Flavours runs from Sept. 30 to Oct. 5.

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Beer and blues

Beer, music and mountain scenery: That's what you'll find at the Telluride Blues & Brews Festival, Sept. 12-14, in the historic Colorado town in the San Juan Mountains. More than 50 microbreweries from the southwest and elsewhere will be featured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cape Cod's shacks inspire

Solitude. Prophets and poets have long sought out the world's secluded spots to clear their minds and inspire their souls.
The lonely, lovely dunes on the outskirts of Provincetown, Mass., the artists' colony at the tip of Cape Cod, have been the refuge of some of America's literary and artistic giants.

Eugene O'Neill, Jack Kerouac, Tennessee Williams, Jackson Pollock and Norman Mailer all came here to think big thoughts while eeking out an undisturbed existence in rickety shacks in the sand.

"There are still lots of young writers, artists and photographers who come here for the seclusion of the dunes," says Frank Vietts. "I imagine that if you're working on a book, you don't want to hear things like the 80 Harley Davidsons we had going down the main street of Provincetown ... I couldn't even hear the phone on my desk."

Seeking our own bit of solitude from the tourist hordes of Provincetown, Frank, a guide with Art's Dune Tours, is leading my four kids and I on an exploration of the magic and mystery of the dunes.

It's a short scoot in Frank's 4x4 from Provincetown to the entrance to the dunes, which are part of the Cape Cod Seashore national park, where Frank unhooks the chain and pushes open the gate — only his company's vehicles and those of the U.S. park rangers are allowed onto the paths among this part of the dunes.

"I had a big wild turkey blocking my way in here the other day," Frank says as he settles back in behind the wheel. "I sat here waiting for him to move and he just stared at me. Finally, I had to get out and shoo him away."

Frank's voice has the musical lilt of a longtime Cape resident and he recites the story of the dunes and the shacks as we plow along the trails, which are carved out continuously by park rangers using vehicles "like World War II half-tracks," he says.

The shacks were built as shelters for members of the coast guard life-saving service in the 19th century. When the service moved on, they were bought by private individuals. The artistic elite started showing up in the 1920s. Some of the shacks are still privately-owned, others are owned by the park service and managed by trusts.

CHARLES FIELDS

The isolated — and desolate — dune shacks of Massachusetts' Cape Cod were once used by some of America's greatest writers and are still seasonally inhabited by artists seeking seclusion.

Dune shacks

- Art's Dune Tours in Provincetown, Mass., offers a variety of package excursions to the dunes. For more information, visit artsdunetours.com or call 1-800-894-1951.

"There are 18 shacks out on the dunes," says Frank, "but there were as many as 40 over the years. Nor'easters (winds) have taken a lot of 'em down, some burned down, some just fell down."

Looking at them — fragile (read decrepit) structures fashioned from driftwood — it seems a miracle that any of them are still upright. And what you see is what you get, just a barebones shelter with no electricity, no running water, no indoor bathrooms. All at the whim of the ever-shifting dunes.

"When they open the shacks at the beginning of the season," says Frank, "it's not unusual to have to shovel the sand out of them."

Talk about suffering for your art. And yet, every year, people shack up in them, owners, artists, and tourists who can try their luck at a summer sojourn through a lottery run by an organization called the Peaked Hill Trust.

CHARLES FIELDS

It's definitely primitive, but it's not quite Survivor territory. Art's offers a delivery service — carting out food, water, even prescriptions, says Frank.

The heroic life of the artist might not be that appealing to you, but even so, the dunes hold plenty of other charms. And there are the beaches. Kilometres of silky sand, perfect for clambakes, strolls and fishing.

Frank, and no doubt the millions of people who enjoy this area each year, are grateful that then-president John Kennedy created the Cape Cod National Seashore in 1961.

"The beaches and the dunes would almost surely be covered with hotels and condominiums by now if they hadn't done that," says Frank.

Now that was an inspired idea.

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U.S. colleges experiment with social media for emergency alerts
Several American colleges are testing out online social networks to notify students of emergencies. For example, the University of Maryland has set up a Facebook group where alerts are posted, while UCLA is developing a similar page on MySpace. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Centennial College

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

You're not alone at the top

Organization coaches women entrepreneurs to succeed

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Running your own business can be a Herculean task but with good planning and sound management sense more women than ever can show they're up to the challenge.

Nell Merlino, president of non-profit women's entrepreneurial resource site Count Me In, says the most important piece of advice women entrepreneurs need is to delegate work.

"We somehow confuse this notion of running our own business with doing everything ourselves. Focus on what you're best at, stick to it and hire other people to do the rest," Merlino said.

Above all, make sure that what you're selling is profitable. Merlino recommends going to trade shows to see what competitors are charging for similar products or services, checking with suppliers for costs of materials and even Googling for price comparisons on the Internet.

"You've really got to be very clear that whatever you're selling you can make money with. It's very challenging at the start to know how to value your time and your product — don't get caught not charging enough," Merlino said.

Taking charge and seeing problems before they happen is important, too.

"Business is not something that happens to you. Being proactive is key. Don't wait until you start to see negative numbers before taking action. Try to see the changes taking place and shift to take advantage of the economy," Merlino said.

Don't forget to check in regularly with your customers either.

"You really have to pay attention to what's going on in the world around you and what your customers want. Your existing customers are your most important resource — always ask them what they're spending money on and if there's something else you could offer," Merlino said.

Mental and physical health is also a top priority, though, more often than not, it falls by the wayside as meetings, phone calls and flooded inboxes take precedence over trips to the gym and picnic dates with loved ones and family members.

"It's very important to take care of yourself. If you're not feeling confident you won't be as well with your business," she said.

To boost your confidence, make friends with other entrepreneurial women to ensure you have an experienced ally to consult with or a sympathetic shoulder to cry on.

"Being CEO of your company is kind of lonely. You have to create or find a community of other women trying to do the same thing you are because you need somebody to talk to," Merlino said.

Advice

- Quick tips:
- Stay healthy: Feeling good will keep your confidence high;
- Take charge: Keep up with market changes, know your customers;
- Innovate: Find out what your customers want and make it uniquely desirable;
- Bring a friend: Get support from family, friends, and other entrepreneurs who know what you're going through.

The president of non-profit women's entrepreneurial resource site Count Me In says the most important piece of advice women entrepreneurs need is to delegate work.

One-third of women say they're paid less than men

WAGES While some may say the "glass ceiling" in the office is being shattered, according to a new survey from CareerBuilder.com, the Battle of the Sexes continues in the workplace.

Employers are increasingly introducing programs to promote equality, yet more than one-third (34 per cent) of female workers say they feel they are paid less than their counterparts of the opposite sex with the same skills and qualifications — relatively unchanged from 35 per cent in 2006. Eleven per cent of men say they feel they are paid less than their female counterparts. The CareerBuilder.com survey, Workplace Equality, included 4,328 male workers and 3,632 female workers nationwide.

Comparing salaries, 40 per cent of men surveyed reported they make $50,000 or more, compared to 21 per cent of women surveyed. Nineteen per cent of men earn $75,000 or more, compared to 7 per cent of women. On the other end of the pay scale, 47 per cent of women reported they make $35,000 or less compared to 28 per cent of men.

Pay isn't the only area where women say they are feeling discrimination. Twenty-six per cent of female workers say they have fewer career advancement opportunities than their counterparts of the opposite sex.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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$11 million for human genetics research at Memorial University
Memorial University is a recipient of the CFI's Research Hospital Fund, garnering $11.2 million for a new facility designated for human genetics research. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lessons learned at work can help out life at home

Prioritize, delegate, outsource. They're all good management concepts for keeping businesses running smoothly. But can they help get the laundry done and put dinner on the table?

Absolutely, say life coaches. Heads of households should set goals, outsource tasks and review team performance at home just as business managers do.

"At work, for whatever reason, we've applied more management tools than we have at home — which doesn't make sense because a family is an organization," said Patrick Lencioni, a management consultant in Alamo, Calif. "We've never recognized the incredible cost of winging it, which is what we do."

Kathryn Sansone, a mother of 10, said managing her home requires many of the same techniques she uses in running her corporate fitness business and website, shapeupmom.com. All the children, ages three to 20, are responsible for some chores and the family keeps a schedule of daily activities on a whiteboard and a separate schedule of sports activities so everybody knows what's going on and when.

"I am running a business within my family," she said. "I constantly have to delegate projects and keep deadlines."

Ironically, many workers who leave clean desks and empty inboxes at the office come home to chaos because they don't apply the same skills to housecleaning and bill payment, said Lencioni, author of The 3 Big Questions for a Frantic Family.

Meetings like these at the office and similar organization schemes can be a great way to make a parent's life at home run smoother.

Some life coaches suggest using tools such as spreadsheets to keep track of chores and schedules, or calendar programs such as Outlook, which let members of a group enter appointments into a shared schedule.

"I am running a business within my family. I constantly have to delegate projects and keep deadlines."
Mother of 10 and business owner, Kathryn Sansone

If one person is the family manager, it helps to see the home as a series of departments, such as food, property and finances, said Kathy Peel, a family manager coach.

"Initially, it feels overwhelming, but it brings clarity to the job," said Sarah Zeldman, a certified family manager in Toronto who trained with Peel. She applied what she learned in her own home when her husband had hip replacement surgery last December. Now they often have discussions about how the different departments of their home are going.

Good managers know what departments they can handle themselves and which they need help with through delegating, bartering and outsourcing, Peel explains. At home, the same rule applies: Delegate chores to different family members, barter household chores like cooking and decorating with friends and neighbours or pay a responsible neighbourhood teenager to run errands or walk the dog.

Sarah Rottenberg, a business consultant in Philadelphia and mother of twin three-year-old boys, says she learned the benefits of outsourcing at her twins' last birthday party, when she decided to bake the cake herself. It didn't come out tasting as good as a store-bought cake, so she's decided next year to buy a cake and spend more time at the party instead.

"Parents who work need to have that same mindset: What are the things that are important for me to do as an individual and what are the things that can be outsourced?" she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Beaming scientists into the classroom

Satellites are connecting some of Canada's top scientists with students and teachers in communities across the country.

The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow. Nurturing an interest for lifelong learning, especially in the sciences and technology, the Canadian Space Agency actively works with educators, community organizations, museums, and science centres to reach out and inspire students in communities all over Canada. The agency's Space Learning Program helps students develop a passion for space science and identify their future career options as they become well-rounded, well-informed citizens.

Enriching

- The Canadian Space Agency's Learning Program is an excellent example of how 21st-century technology is enriching the natural affiliation between Canada's education and scientific communities, officials say.

INSPIRING WITH SCIENCE

The Space Learning Program uses space to fire the imagination of thousands of young people every year and motivate them to learn about spacesuits, exploration, robotics, atmospheric science, and the challenges of microgravity. Highly interactive educational workshops use videoconferencing to offer students a unique hands-on experience right in their classrooms.

Some of Canada's top scientific minds are delivering curriculum-relevant learning from a uniquely Canadian space science perspective. The program aims to increase the science literacy of Canadian students and bridge the scientific and education communities.

THE ULTIMATE FIELD TRIP: MARS

One of the most popular video conference workshops is How to Explore Mars, presented by Canadian Space Agency robotics instructor Marc Fricker.

Over two days, 100 Grade 5 students from Yellowknife, N.W.T., applied the science concepts they were learning to space while studying Mars exploration of the past, present, and future. Students then took part in a simulation showing the challenges of communicating between Earth and Mars.

Distance-learning programs leverage the ability of experts like Fricker to inspire youthful curiosity and share their passion and knowledge with young students and educators.

CONNECTING CANADIANS IN A VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Tapping into an increasingly computer-literate student population, the Space Learning Program directs an interactive, real-time virtual classroom. VClass is an alternative to videoconferencing that connects up to 100 students from anywhere in the country.

In a VClass workshop about Earth observation, students learn directly from an expert how to read an image taken by RADARSAT, and how Canada's premier satellite is used for coastal ice monitoring, agriculture, forestry, environmental conservation, and disaster management. It's a live, multimedia experience where scientists and students communicate via two-way audio, interactive whiteboard, and text chat.

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Maclean's to host online university and college fair

Students looking for information on Canadian post-secondary institutions can now save their gas money for textbooks, as Maclean's will host a new virtual university and college fair online. The fair will be online on Oct. 22, and will be archived online for 90 days afterwards. METRO NEWS SERVICES

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Responsibility: Accept or ignore?

Having been out of school for a few years and with a four-month-old child to care for, Melicia Sutherland thought college was going to be an insurmountable challenge.

"I was terrified of school the first day," she recalls. "I was very intimidated."

But Centennial College's General Arts and Science program — which bolsters communications and learning skills while introducing students to the humanities and social sciences — started to grow on her.

One course in particular — Global Citizenship — explored the social justice and diversity issues that were close to her heart. While other students examined the media, hybrid cars and ultra-consumerism, Sutherland and her group got a first-hand look at homelessness by spending a cold evening on Toronto's streets.

It was an eye-opening lesson — and one that helped illustrate what Centennial hopes students will learn as part of its Signature Learning Experience (SLE).

Mandatory for all Centennial diploma students beginning this fall, the course builds a foundation for a critical understanding of diversity, equity and social justice issues, and gives students cultural competencies to prepare them for living and working in a changing world.

"It will equip our students with the critical thinking skills necessary to work together in today's multicultural and multinational business environment — expertise that employers both large and small have told us they are looking for in graduates," says Centennial president Ann Buller.

In addition to the Global Citizenship course, the SLE requires students to assemble a portfolio of work that showcases the equity competencies learned in their field of study, and embeds equity competencies across all college programs.

Centennial College's humanracebook.com campaign highlights the institution's required Global Citizenship course, which teaches students some harsh realities of the world and what they can do to help.

In keeping with the SLE goals, Centennial unveiled its humanracebook.com advertising campaign that challenges students and the public to think about important issues and "accept" rather than "ignore" their responsibilities as global citizens.

The language is taken from the ever-popular Facebook social media website that boasts millions of users around the world.

"The campaign goes beyond raising awareness of the mission and core values of Centennial College by asking people to look at what their core values are, and what they're doing to help the planet or their fellow man," says Malcolm Roberts, principal, Smith Roberts Creative Communications, which devised the ads.

The campaign can be seen on transit vehicles as well as in movie theatres.

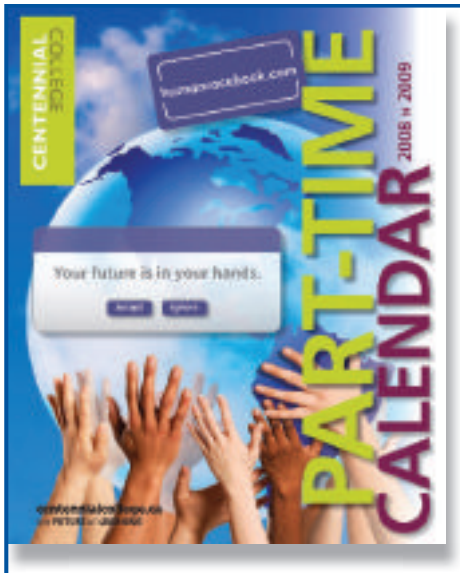
The progressive ideals espoused in the ad campaign may seem like so much advertising bluster, but Sutherland says it rings true.

"My professors made me think and made me care," Sutherland says. Set to pursue social work and psychology at university, she credits her Centennial experience for opening her eyes.

"Nobody has a cause anymore," she says. "But that changed for me."

For details about Centennial's programs, visit centennialcollege.ca

-MARK TOLJAGIC



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the FUTURE of LEARNING

U of T unveils redesigned Ulife portal

The University of Toronto has given Ulife, its student organization and activity portal, a makeover, allowing faculty and staff to submit their offerings for students, such as research opportunities. Campus groups can now apply for university recognition through Ulife. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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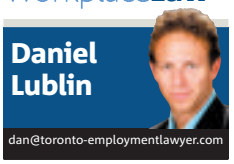

"THE GOLDEN RULE IS THAT THERE ARE NO GOLDEN RULES."
–GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Customs used to define Canadian employment law — not contracts. When there was a workplace dispute, judges would decide cases based on what was reasonable or just or what the parties would have agreed to if they had thought about the issue from the outset. Customs, however, have been replaced by comprehensive employment contracts and lawsuits for wrongful dismissal. Now, instead of being asked to consider what's most reasonable or fair, judges are asked whether a contract applies and, if so, what its terms represent. But what happens when a contract doesn't accurately portray the true nature of an employee's job? As La-Z-Boy Canada Ltd. recently learned, sometimes employees are not bound by the agreements to which they have agreed.

Having landed on the wrong side of a government audit, finding that its commissioned sales agents were actually employees, La-Z-Boy needed to make a change. All of its agents would be made to sign independent contractor agreements, confirming that they were not employees.

The new relationship made sense for La-Z-Boy. It could avoid the overhead and costs associated with its outside sales staff and it could use the new arrangement to satisfy further audits. As well, since the law requires that only employees, not contractors, are entitled to severance pay when fired, La-Z-Boy could avoid paying severance, too — or so it thought.

Fourteen-year company veteran Gordon Braiden was one of its sales agents. Braiden was told that, in order to continue at his job, he would have to sign annual agreements stating that he was not an employee, but rather a contractor and that he could be fired with only 60 days' notice. Despite the clause, Braiden signed his name and continued to work as before.

Nine years later, Braiden was fired. La-Z-Boy gave him 60 days' notice, according to the agreements. However, believing that he was actually an employee and therefore entitled to more substantial severance, Braiden challenged La-Z-Boy's agreements in court — and recently he won.

Although Braiden signed an agreement stating that he was a contractor, the court confirmed that the true test is not what a signed agreement states but rather the nature of the employer's control and the employee's vulnerability in the relationship. Under the new agreements, Braiden still worked full time and La-Z-Boy continued to control what products he sold, how he sold them, where his sales territory was and what promotional methods to use. Therefore, despite his label, the court found him an employee.

Labelling a worker as a contractor is not dispositive, even if the employee agrees. The court will always consider the true nature of the relationship to determine how the parties actually behaved.

If you want to employ or be employed as a contractor, then do as follows:

- Ensure there is a clear separation between the employer's business and the contractor. Permit the contractor to perform services for others and to maintain genuine discretion over how and when to perform the job. Even an airtight independent contractor agreement will not be reliable unless the parties stick to what it says.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

Career Finder

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U.S. academics question Canada's free speech
A group of U.S. professors launched a campaign this week protesting the selection of Toronto as the host for the 2009 American Political Science Association annual conference. The protest is based on recent censorship by the Canadian government on topics like Islam or same-sex marriage. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Surf's up at work: Survey

Not all employees browsing the Internet for Olympics results or news updates need feel guilty, a new survey by The Creative Group suggests.

More than half (57 per cent) of advertising and marketing executives polled said it's OK for employees to visit non-work-related websites during business hours. When asked the maximum amount of time that should be permissible each day, the mean response was 32 minutes.

Advertising and marketing executives were asked, "In your opinion, is it OK for employees to surf non-work-related websites during business hours?"

"In the creative field, surfing non-work sites may be considered part of the job because it allows professionals to keep up with trends and seek new sources of inspiration," said Megan Slabinski, executive director of The Creative Group. "Also, many employers recognize that making appointments and attending to personal tasks online might actually improve productivity."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Harrelson joins zombie comedy
Actor Woody Harrelson will star in forthcoming comedy film Zombieland. The movie revolves around a mismatched pair of survivors who find friendship in a world overrun by zombies. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Extras may sue
Tom Cruise's troubled film project Valkyrie has been hit with another setback — extras on the film are allegedly threatening to sue movie bosses over on-set injuries.
IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

CTV renews hit series Flashpoint

TV This show isn't just a flash in the pan: CTV has ordered a second season of its hit original series Flashpoint, Susanne Boyce, president, creative, content and channels, CTV Inc., has announced.

Thirteen new episodes are expected to head into production in early 2009.

Flashpoint has been a hit since it premiered last month, and has maintained an average audience of 1.17 million viewers since it debuted at No.1 in Canada and the United States on CTV and CBS, CTV reports.

Flashpoint airs Thursdays at 10 p.m.

MTV 'tarnished' Ozzy's image: Son

Jack Osbourne

PEOPLE Jack Osbourne wants to set the record straight about his famous father. And that means taking a few swipes at the MTV reality show that put his family back on the map, People.com reports.

"I think The Osbournes, to a degree, tarnished the public's perception of my dad as a bit of a senile, funny, bumbling guy," Jack tells Rolling Stone. "Yeah, my dad can be that guy, but it's not (all of) him."

Now Jack is trying to rejuvenate his dad's rock legacy. He has recruited his friends and his dad's former bandmates to contribute to a documentary he is shooting.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Betrayal drives thriller

Traitor tells complex story of secret Muslim officer in war on terror

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Traitor couldn't have been an easy movie to make. Not only is the terrorism thriller set in 17 cities on three continents, but it required shooting the film in just 48 days on a tight budget. Who would want to take on that overly ambitious endeavour? Well, Don Cheadle for one.

The complex story of a secret Muslim officer that infiltrates a global terrorism ring only to find himself being hunted down as a traitor, this thriller not only enticed Don Cheadle the actor, but also Don Cheadle the producer — who has previously made his mark getting behind such hot-button films as Crash and Darfur Now.

"It was very interesting that one of the things we learned post 9/11 is that there were something like three Arabic-speaking agents that we had in our (enforcement) agencies," says Cheadle during an interview in New York. "How do you understand people that you can't even talk to?"

Actor Don Cheadle stars in Traitor, which opens in theatres Friday.

That was one of the primary themes that prompted Cheadle to help make Traitor — the idea that a lack in communication between cultures has only fuelled terrorism. It's not an easy notion to sell to movie studios either. As disappointing box office revenues of other films dealing with the war on terrorism have mounted recently, studios are surely wary of that particular subject.

"They probably did their rounds with studios and received a series of ideas of how it should be changed and softened up," posits co-star Guy Pearce about the struggle to find backers. "(But writer/director Jeffrey Nachmanoff) just didn't compromise."

Instead, Traitor (in theatres Friday) was lucky enough to find financing and still deal directly with such serious issues as race, religion and the role of ignorance in terrorism. Pearce adds: "I think (Nachmanoff did) a really good job of finding that balance between an entertainment and a thought-provoking topic."

Cheadle would certainly agree. Although he's first to acknowledge the film doesn't provide many answers to these issues, he does hope it will create an awareness in moviegoers' minds. "It could be a cautionary tale on some level if you take it seriously," insists Cheadle. "Most human beings want equanimity, most human beings want peace, most human beings want safety. It's the people on the extremes that can obviously pull and push us and protract that argument."

Sleuth shows lead Gemini nominations

A pair of detective shows — one set in the 19th century and another that takes place in present-day suburbia — are this year's leading Gemini Award nominees.

Murdoch Mysteries, which airs on Citytv and stars Yannick Bisson as a sleuth who solves crimes in Toronto in the late 1800s, is up for 14 of the prizes, which recognize excellence in Canadian television. The show received nods for best dramatic series, writing, visual effects, photography, score and makeup.

"Who would have thought a mystery series set in 1895 would capture both Canadian audiences and international audiences?"said Christina Jennings, executive producer of Murdoch Mysteries.

Durham County, in which Hugh Dillon plays a homicide detective who moves his family from Toronto to the suburbs only to discover that his neighbour may be a serial killer, nabbed 13 Gemini nominations.

Dillon is up for an acting prize, as are co-stars Helene Joy and Justin Louis. The program, which airs on The Movie Network and Movie Central, is also up for best dramatic series as well as for writing, directing, editing, sound and photography.

In the best drama category, Murdoch Mysteries and Durham County will square off against the sexy Henry VIII drama The Tudors, cop thriller The Border and organized crime drama Intelligence.

The Fifth Estate picked up 11 nods, while The Border and CBC News: The National tied with nine apiece.

The main Gemini Awards show takes place in Toronto on Nov. 28.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

HANDOUT
Actor Hugh Dillon is up for a Gemini for Durham County.

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From Batman to Ken

Batman actor Michael Keaton will star in the forthcoming Toy Story movie. Keaton will voice Barbie's boyfriend Ken in the animated Disney film, which is slated for release in 2010. IMDB.COM

Nintendo Wii reigns supreme

The Nintendo Wii was last of the next-generation video game consoles out of the box, but it's the first to pass the million mark in unit sales in Canada.

The Wii had sold just less than 1,060,000 units through July according to recently released figures by the NPD Group, which tracks the industry. In comparison, the Xbox 360 sold just more than 870,000 units in Canada through July while the PlayStation 3 was just more than 520,000.

In the first seven months of 2008, the Wii outsold its opposition combined. Canadian consumers bought 376,000 Wiis, compared to 200,000 for the PS3 and 154,000 for the Xbox 360.

The 360 was the first of the new consoles to hit the market, in November 2005. Sony released the PS3 a year later, with the Wii following two days later.

The video game industry as a whole continues to boom in Canada.

The NPD Group says sales of gaming hardware, software and accessories was just less than $920 million through July, up 54 per cent over the same period last year.

The Wii has lived up to Nintendo's hope of attracting new gamers to the fold with its interactive controller and imaginative use of accessories. Gamers can use the wireless Wii remote controller as a fishing rod, tennis racket, weapon or in a myriad of other ways.

Nintendo expects cash registers to keep ringing. The Kyoto-based company hopes to sell 25 million Wii consoles and 28 million of its handheld DS machines for the fiscal year through March 2009.

Nintendo continues to lead the way in Canadian software sales. Eight of the top 10 games on the July sales chart were for Nintendo (five for the Wii and three for the DS) with "Mario Kart" leading the way. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Worldwide

- Through June, Nintendo had sold 29.62 million Wiis worldwide. That's compared to worldwide sales of 19 million for the Xbox 360 and 14.4 million for the PlayStation 3.

The Wii has lived up to Nintendo's hope of attracting new gamers to the fold with its interactive controller and imaginative use of accessories.

Buffy inspired pagan followers?

TELEVISION Hollywood actress Sarah Michelle Gellar's hit show Buffy The Vampire Slayer has been blamed for 50,000 women abandoning traditional Western religion to study paganism, imdb.com reports. According to a British study, young women have taken an increased interest in practising witchcraft. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sarah Michelle Gellar

Hard Core Logo set for sequel

Hard Core Logo is set to become a movie franchise.

A sequel to the cult classic will begin shooting early next year with a third instalment to follow shortly thereafter, says director Bruce McDonald.

Plans are even afoot for a fourth — and maybe even a fifth — film inspired by a fake Canadian punk band called Hard Core Logo that implodes while on an ill-fated reunion tour in 1996.

Despite the dire ending that marks the original film, the possibilities for sequels are endless, McDonald insists.

McDonald isn't about to reveal how the film's hero, Joe Dick, played by Hugh Dillon, comes back from the dead, but says, "It's quite cleverly worked out and it's very satisfying."

He says he wants shooting to take place January/February for Hard Core Logo II: Still Hard. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bruce McDonald

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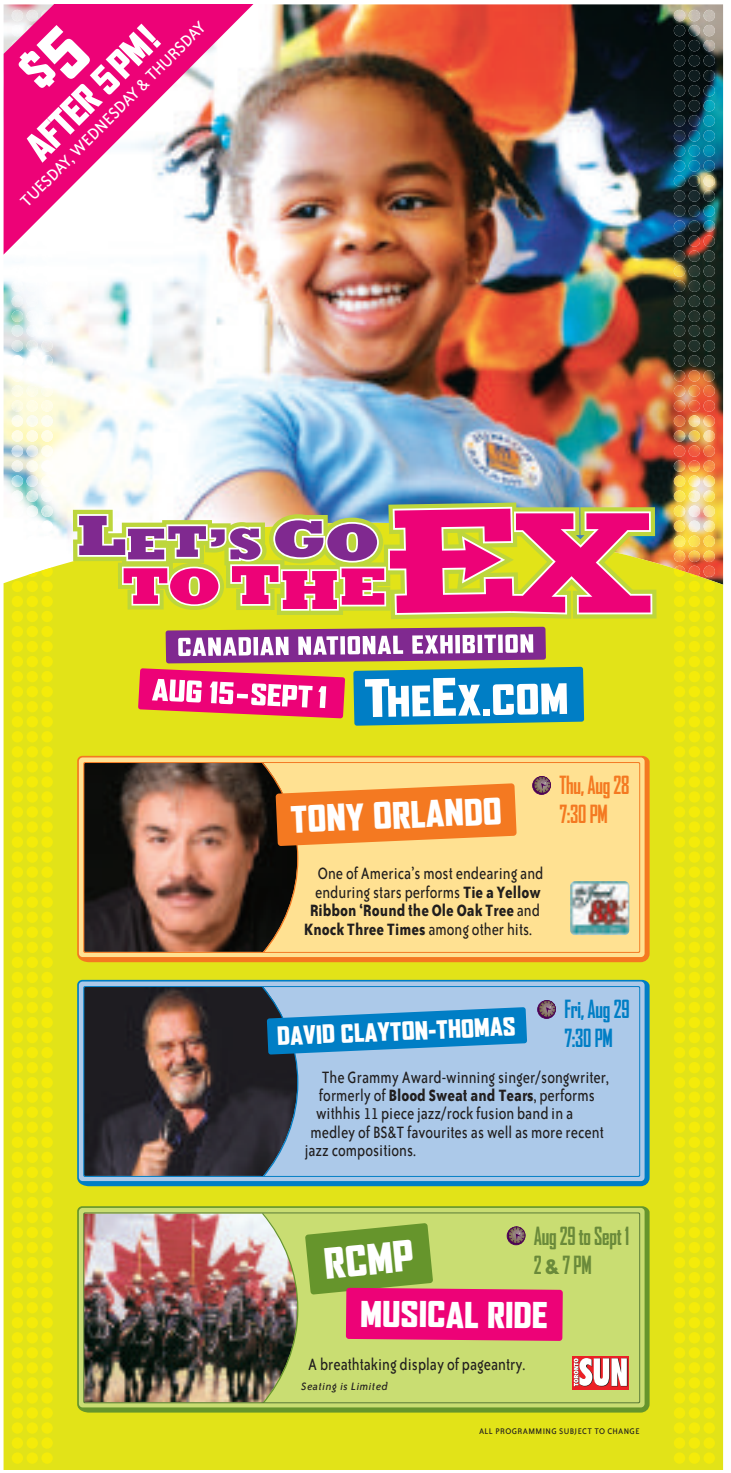
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Reid has designs on fashion

Tara Reid is launching her own fashion line in a bid to broaden her appeal. The actress debuted Mantra, a collection of swimsuits and casual wear decorated with beads and charms, in Las Vegas on Monday. IMDB.COM

Dr. Dre's son, 20, found dead

PEOPLE The son of hip-hop producer Dr. Dre died over the weekend, People.com reports.

Andre Young Jr., 20, was discovered "unresponsive" by his mother at his home in Woodland Hills, Calif., on Saturday, according to the L.A. County Coroner's office. Paramedics pronounced him dead at the scene.

No foul play is suspected. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ex-guard says sorry to Rushdie

IN COURT A former bodyguard for Salman Rushdie has apologized for lying about the world-famous author in a tell-all book.

Ronald Evans, a former London Metropolitan Police officer, and publisher John Blake Publishing Ltd. say they accept that allegations in Evans' book about Rushdie's personal life are untrue.

Evans had written that Rushdie sought to profit from an Iranian-backed death threat for his 1988 novel The Satanic Verses.

In a book entitled On Her Majesty's Service, Evans also accused Rushdie of being suicidal and unhygienic.

Through their lawyer Theo Solley, Evans, his publisher and ghost writer Douglas Thompson said yesterday they apologized for the "hurt and damage" caused by the lies.

Rushdie, who was in court, said he was satisfied with the outcome. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stop the presses

- John Blake Publishing Ltd. printed 4,000 copies of On Her Majesty's Service but never distributed them after discovering parts of two chapters were untrue. BBC NEWS ONLINE

Movies Day out with dad

PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY IMAGES

Actor Brad Pitt and his son, Pax Thien Jolie-Pitt, ride a boat from Marco Polo Airport in Venice, Italy, ahead of the 65th Venice Film Festival yesterday. The event starts today and runs to Sept. 6.

Towelhead draws anger

The director of controversial movie Towelhead has hit back at calls to retitle the film, insisting it is "important" to stay true to the original concept, imdb.com reports.

Muslim leaders have urged movie executives at Warner Bros. to rename the movie because the word is "offensive and exploitative" to American Muslims and Arab-Americans.

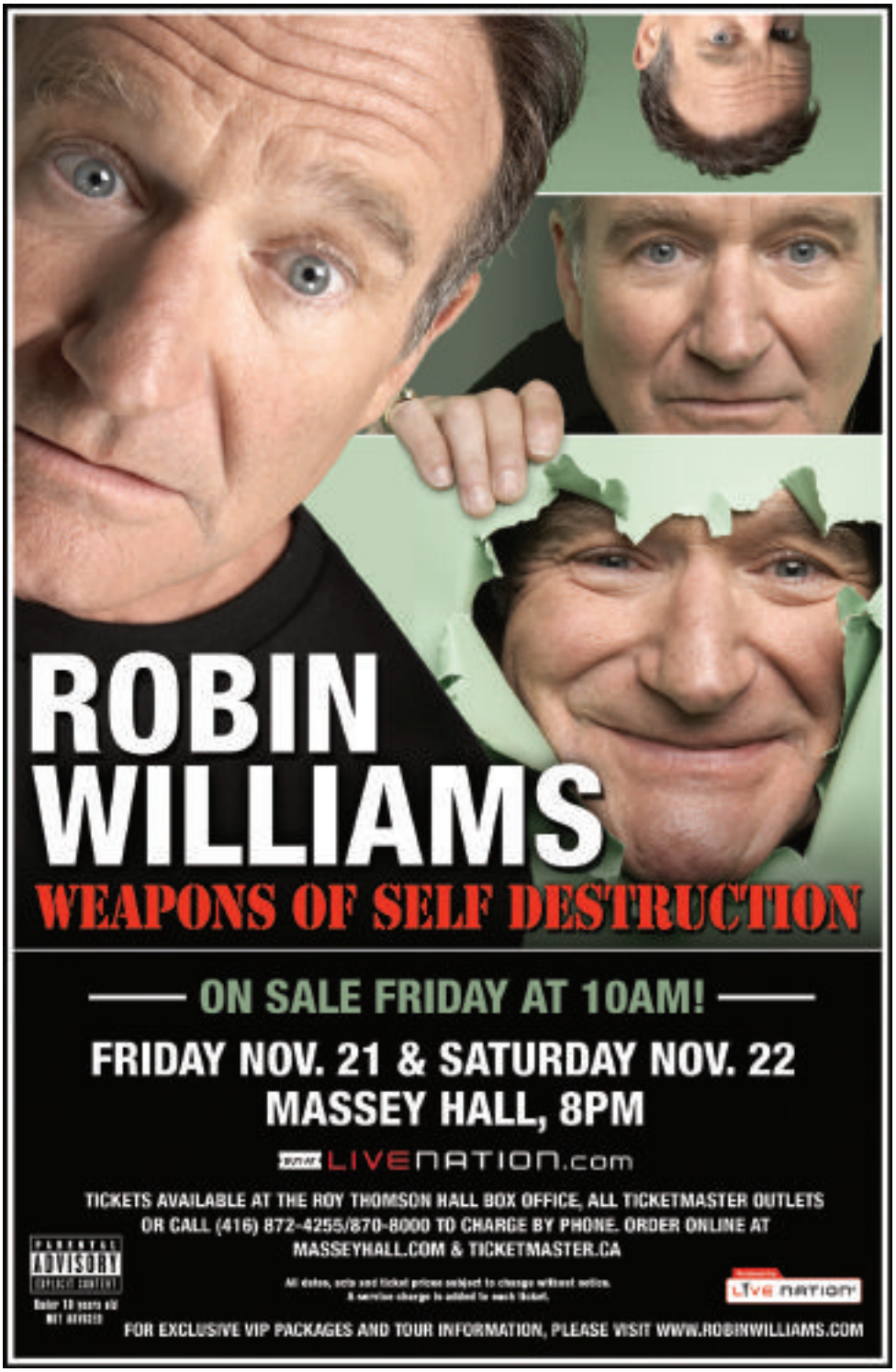
But Alan Ball, who directs the film adaptation of the Alicia Erian novel, insists he will keep the title as it was intended.

"As a gay man, I know how it feels to be called hateful names simply because of who I am," Ball says. "Therefore, I felt it was important to retain the title of Alicia Erian's novel, in which she so effectively dramatizes the pain inflicted by such language, something many people of non-minority descent never have to face.

"I believe one of the unintended consequences of forbidding such words to be spoken is imbuing those words with more power than they should ever have, and helping create the illusion that the bigotry and racism expressed by such cruel epithets is less prevalent than it actually is, which we all know is sadly not the case."

> **"As a gay man, I know how it feels to be called hateful names simply because of who I am."**
> Director Alan Ball

The film, starring Aaron Eckhart, Summer Bishil and Toni Collette, is about a young Arab-American girl's struggles with life and sexual obsession. The heroine of Erian's story is dubbed "Towelhead" by her enemies. METRO NEWS SERVICES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Gospel's Dynamic Duets

Star music picks

North Carolina-based indie record label Merge is launching a limited-edition series of CDs curated by celebrities like Saturday Night Live's Amy Poehler, right, David Byrne, R.E.M.'s Peter Buck, novelist Jonathan Lethem and others. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Idol alum to make Broadway debut

Another American Idol alum is heading to Grease on Broadway.

Ace Young, who competed on Season 5 of the Fox show, joins the cast Sept. 9, playing Kenickie in the revival of the popular musical.

The 27-year-old singer-songwriter — known for his pretty looks and falsetto vocals — will make his debut two days after fellow Idol winner Taylor Hicks completes a two-month stint as Teen Angel. Hicks took home the Idol title in 2006.

Young will perform through Jan. 18.

"I'm really excited," he said. "I had a lot of things kind of open up for me and when the role of Kenickie was offered, it's something that I've always wanted to do as a kid. That's always been my favourite role from Grease."

Young likes that Danny Zuko's right-hand man is a guy's guy.

"That's a big side of me that a lot of people don't know," he said. "They didn't get to see that on Idol. You know, I have four older brothers. I was never trying to even care about what I was wearing. I was just trying to survive at the household."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLIE GALLAY/GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Former American Idol contestant Ace Young will play Kenickie in Grease on Broadway.

Monkeys recruit Stone Age singer

MUSIC Queens Of The Stone Age front man Josh Homme is to produce new material by the Arctic Monkeys, BBC News Online reports.

"We're going do some tracks and I'm really looking forward to it because I like them a lot," Homme told BBC 6 Music.

Homme said the Arctic Monkeys would record the new tracks for their third album at a recording studio in the California desert. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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New hosting gig

Mario Lopez will host MTV's new series Top Pop Group. The show will be similar to Lopez's other hosting gig, America's Best Dance Crew, only featuring music groups. **TVGUIDE.COM**

Hot shows that no one sees

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

UNRATED VERSION: There's still a lot of life left in broadcast television, but we know its expiry date is looming by the survival of shows like Battlestar Galactica, as detailed in a recent Associated Press story on the Sci Fi network's flagship show, now mere months away from its final airing.

Galactica has been a critic's favourite since its debut, which is another way of saying "brilliant but soon-to-be cancelled" if you're talking about a network show, especially one that draws the ratings Galactica has. According to the AP story, the radical revision of the '70s sci-fi cheese original is "scraping bottom" if you go by "the traditional ratings system" — from an average of 2.8 million viewers in its first season, it's lost a million viewers since then.

But Sci Fi is acting like the numbers don't mean much, and it's gone ahead with a Galactica prequel movie that's set to air after the final episode next year, and a spin-off series set two generations before Galactica's storyline kicks off. Caprica, the spin-off, has a trailer on YouTube and a pilot shot months ago, though rumours about the show being picked up earlier this summer have proved to be speculative; the network seems to be playing wait and see before committing to a full season order.

Still, Sci Fi is showing remarkable confidence in a franchise whose ratings would have guaranteed a first season cancellation on NBC or CBS — or certain oblivion after just two episodes if it was showing on Fox. Apparently, the network is acting like it's already 2012, and bums-in-place-on-the-scheduled-night ratings aren't an accurate way of measuring the viewership of a show like Galactica.

Jamie Bamber, who plays Lee Adama on the show, told AP that he has a different way of measuring the show's success. "When the numbers were high I would get stopped in the street maybe once a week," Bamber said. "Now that the viewing figures are lower on the TV, everywhere I go someone will come up to me and say what a huge fan they are. That just tells me that people watch the show in a more modern way and that it has reached its sort of critical mass."

Technologically-savvy Galactica fans who have better things to do prefer to catch up on the show via TiVo or in weekend-long DVD marathons.

What he means is that technologically-savvy Galactica fans have better things to do with their nights, and prefer to catch up on the show via TiVo or in weekend-long DVD marathons — or relying on the huge but legally troubling archive of Internet downloads. One assumes the same sort of logic is behind the apparently untroubled reaction AMC has to Mad Men, its flagship but low-rated show. Since I'm one of those people who can't be bothered with scheduled viewing, it all makes sense to me, but I'm also aware that we're hard people to make money off if you're an advertiser, and that something, somewhere, has got to give before we can finally ascend into the brave new world of post-broadcast television.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

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Top DVDs

The most popular DVDs according to Rogers Video for the period ending Aug. 24:

RENTALS:

- 1. Street Kings
- 2. Smart People
- 3. The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior
- 4. 21
- 5. Prom Night
- 6. Harold and Kumar: Escape From Guantanamo Bay
- 7. The Bank Job
- 8. Nim's Island
- 9. The Art of War 2
- 10. Meet Bill

SALES:

- 1. Dexter: Season 2
- 2. Street Kings
- 3. Camp Rock
- 4. Hannah Montana: Best of Both Worlds Concert Tour
- 5. House: Season 4
- 6. Prom Night
- 7. The Scorpion King 2: Rise of a Warrior
- 8. South Park: Season 11
- 9. Gossip Girl: Season 1
- 10. Night at the Museum

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 8/27/08	265	353	2	TVO	The Life of Birds		The View From Here		The Whistleblowers		The View From Here		View From Hr
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA)				NCIS "Internal Affairs"		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	22 Minutes	Little Mosque	Sophie (HDTV)	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Friends	Hollywood	Reaper "Pilot"		Rock of Love-Bret Michaels		Entourage "Date Night"		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	eTalk	Jeopardy!	Law & Order "Darkness"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		CSI: NY		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Greatest American Dog		Janice Dickinson Modeling		Jim Carrey: True Story		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama	Jardins (SC)	Destination Nor'Ouest (SC)		*Kilomètre Zéro* ★★ (2005, Drame)			Les Gens de...	Tournants
	-	-	14	-	Law & Order: SVU		News (N)		News (N)		King	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Aliens-America	Aliens-America	Toronto Laughs (DVS)		To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Greatest American Dog		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Democratic Convention		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	America's Got Talent (Live)				Democratic Convention		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Wife Swap "Coste/Ives"		Supernanny		Democratic Convention		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Grand Star	Degrassi: Next	America's Got Talent (Live)				Zombiemania		News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)				Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Mulberry	Democratic National Convention Democratic National Convention from Denver.						Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model		Pussycat Dolls: Girlicious		CW11 News at Ten		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Dr. Phil (N)		WBZ News (N)	Jeopardy!	Frasier	Frasier	Cheers
	298	653	332	TLA	Reba	Reba	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Family Guy	Family Guy	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Fortune	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Democratic Convention		National
	500	500	33	CNN	(6) Democratic National Convention Democratic National Convention from Denver.								
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow & Company		On the Money		Asia Squawk Box		The Big Idea With Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball Toronto Blue Jays at Tampa Bay Rays. (HDTV) (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30	TSN	U.S. Open Tennis Men's First Round & Women's Second Round. (HDTV) (Live)								SportsCentre
	411	457	58	OLN	Videos	Videos	Pilot Guides Specials		Word Travels	Strand-Peters	Departures		Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks (HDTV)	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks (HDTV)	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Prank Patrol	Fries That?	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Tom & Jerry	Tom and Jerry	6teen	Total Drama	Futurama	*Superman II* (1980, Science Fiction)		
	556	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Smart Guy	The Suite Life	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Shopping Bags	Style by Jury	Three Fat Brides		Coleen's Real Women (N)		Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	Legally Blonde "You're Cut"		Hot & Wet 2008		PunchMuch		Legally Blonde "You're Cut"		Hot & Wet
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Cop Killer"		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel	Criss Angel	Jacked: Theft
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	*Anthrax* (2001, Suspense) Cameron Daddo, David Keith.				The Sopranos (SS)		Raymond
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	Popaganda		Back In	Listed		Brooke Knows	Revival	Party of Five
	575	583	38	CMT	CMT30 "Craven 2008"		Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Reba	Hope & Faith	Home Improve.	Roseanne	Tara Diaries
	616	521	39	SHO	ReGenesis (HDTV)		Da Vinci's Inquest		Trailer Park	Rent-A-Goalie	Big Love (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Literature Alive	Arts & Minds	Wingfield	Camera	Mad Men		Entourage	Bravonews	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	Til Debt-Part	X-Weighted		Work Out		Inside Hollywood (N)		X-Weighted
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Sea Dog"		Re-Inventors	Re-Inventors	Mob Stories		NCIS "Sea Dog"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Laughs	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Lewis Black	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Property Shop	Big City Broker	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Flipping Out		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	*Shattered* (2007, Suspense) Pierce Brosnan, Maria Bello.				Frasier	Seinfeld	Friends
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	Hell Date	Baldwin Hills	Baldwin Hills	What's at Stake?		Dem. Convent.	Post Analysis	*Three Play*
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate SG-1 (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Smallville "Sleeper"		Supernatural		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Next	After	Canada's Next Top Model		VMA Opens	Step, Repeat	Run's House	Buzzin	MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	TV Made, Do It	TV Made, Do It	ET Canada	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	Road Grill	Licence to Grill	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Italian Escape	Italian Escape	Challenge
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Chambers	No Place Like	The End of Suburbia		Call It Karma		Side Effects
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	Hollywood	TMZ (N)	eTalk	Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		eTalk
	553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	The Wiggles	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Marché	Poule-oeufs or	Juste pour rire (SC)		La Grande Évasion Otage.		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Le Roman*
	126	730	102	RDI	RDI en direct sur l'actualité		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		Convention	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	CLT	The West Wing		Paul Merton in China		Casanova's Love Letters		Traders		The West Wing
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Rocket Science* ★★★ (2007, Comedy-Drama)				*Mr. Woodcock* ★★ (2007, Comedy)			*Introducing the Dwights*	
	305	612	306	PIX	(7:05) *Cold Comfort* ★★ (1989, Suspense)				*Frantic* ★★★ (1988, Suspense) Harrison Ford.				*Avenging War.*

critics' corner

Supernanny

Jo Frost arrives to help the Shrage family in a small Southern town. The parents' marriage is in quite a state, considering they have not shared a bed in eight years. The three girls are so out of control that their own grandmother, who lives with them, refuses to dine with them. Though the girls present a lovely front to the outside world, at home they run rampant, and it's up to Supernanny to restore order. 9 PM on ABC

Criminal Minds

A teenage boy and his girlfriend are at the heart of this episode's murder mystery, which brings the profilers to a small town in Texas. A serial killer is apparently on the loose, and the more victims found, the closer they get to figuring out the killer's motive. Thomas Gibson, Joe Mantegna, Paget Brewster and Shemar Moore star in "Elephant's Memory." 9 PM on CTV

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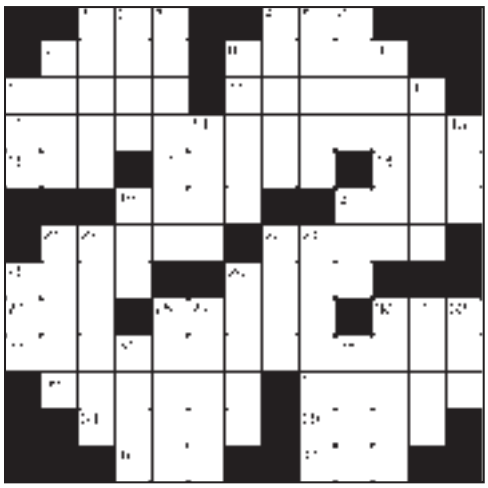
Rodriguez to return to Lost

Michelle Rodriguez, right, is reportedly returning to Lost this season, ew.com reports. Details of her comeback are shrouded in secrecy, but she's to be back for one episode, reportedly this season's second episode. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take Five



Crossword down

1 Battery terminal
2 "— noted"
3 Inclined
4 Cougars
5 Characteristic
6 "— She Sweet?"
7 Go no further
8 Made crow noises
9 Masthead name
10 The whole enchilada
12 Japanese cartooning style
14 Undraped
15 Coll. transcript stat
19 "See ya"
20 Opposed to
21 Rodents of South America
22 Dr. Robert, with an eponymous diet
23 Darjeeling dress
24 Loot, as the Vikings did
25 Legislation
26 Photo finish?
28 Erstwhile larvae
29 Establish, as 25-Down
30 Game-show group
31 Crafts' partners
32 Yr. divisions
34 Spigots
35 One-on-one battle

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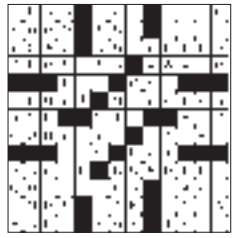
Crossword across

1 Big hoopla
4 Bake-sale org.
7 Give the cold shoulder
8 Radium discoverer
10 Bikini, e.g.
11 "Hairspray" actress Bynes
13 Queen's attendant
16 Caustic solution
17 Search
18 Gratuity
19 Melville's Billy
20 Deep sleep
21 Cheque casher
23 Fern product
25 After curfew
26 Primary
27 Interjection in "Cathy" comics
28 Oyster's prize
30 Manhandle
33 1967 Audrey Hepburn film
36 Address bitingly
37 Cousins' moms
38 "The final frontier"
39 The Bee —
40 Prepared
41 Right angle

previous day's answer



Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Funds will be raised for a business plan. Tension results in more effective communication. Friends make decisions that will change your mind.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Run errands before a deadline. A professional gets to first base. Sparks start to fly, but don't throw yourself into anything.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Finances might force a showdown. There's an easy escape from a selfish action. Brief tension occurs when advantage is taken.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Feeling doubtful makes you play tough. Take charge to improve the state of your teamwork. Someone grabs your attention with a secret message.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Nobody can be blamed for disturbing news. Agree to a compromise that's designed to stabilize. Be less stressed by ignoring a weird situation.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A prankster wants to get serious about life. Repay deceitfulness with honesty and humour. Defuse a situation by asking for help.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A secret attraction leads to an unexpected realization. A reasonable woman has a naughty story to tell. Don't give up on a mischievous man.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't become a recluse while waiting for someone. Sudden moves will produce a stunning result. Take the chance of a lifetime.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Take some time out to play. An encounter will shock and intrigue you. Someone's need for attention makes you claustrophobic.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
A ranting man gets frosty treatment from you. Keep someone talking if you want answers. Telling a true story will make you look good.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Shivers of excitement result from a compliment. Your work is putting you in the spotlight. Squelch any distress that won't stand up to scrutiny.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
News of plans gone awry sets the tone for the day. Anxiety will produce family problems. A hostile snub depicts malice at a meeting.

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This day in history

AUG. 27, 1813: French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte defeats a larger force of Austrians, Russians and Prussians at the Battle of Dresden.
AUG. 27, 1859: Petroleum discovered in Titusville, Pa. World's first successful oil well.
AUG. 27, 1927: American aviators Billy Brock and Ed Schlee fly the Pride of Detroit over London on the way to completing the first-ever flight around the world.
AUG. 27, 1993: The Rainbow Bridge, connecting Tokyo's Shibaura and the island of Odaiba, is completed.
AUG. 27, 2003: Mars makes its closest approach to Earth in nearly 60,000 years.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sudoku

	6		8		7	9	2	
					1			4
4						1		3
	8		4			3	5	
				3				
	5	1			2		9	
5		4						9
9			1					
	3	2	7		4		6	

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU:
The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

previous day's answer

1	3	5	7	4	6	2	8	9
8	2	7	1	9	3	4	5	6
4	9	6	5	8	2	7	3	1
7	6	4	9	3	8	5	1	2
5	1	2	4	6	7	8	9	3
3	8	9	2	5	1	6	4	7
9	5	3	6	7	4	1	2	8
2	7	8	3	1	5	9	6	4
6	4	1	8	2	9	3	7	5

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13. . . . . Genius
13-17 . . . . . Scholar
17-21. . . . . Smart
21-25. . . . . Not bad
25+ . . . . . Keep practising

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Toronto weather

Afternoon	Tonight	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Variable. 23°	Variable. 16°	Variable. 23°/16°	60% Showers. 24°/15°	Partly cloudy. 23°/13°

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com

Temperature
Normals
High: 25.9°
Low: 14.1°

Records
High: 35.6°/1948
Low: 6.1°/1945

Sunrise: 6:37 a.m.
Sunset: 8:01 p.m.
Moonrise: 2:29 a.m.
Moonset: 6:23 p.m.

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The Weather Network

Sheen expecting child with new wife
Actor Charlie Sheen, left, and his new wife, Brooke, are expecting their first child together, his rep has announced, reports People.com. The couple have been married since May. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Hef's door open for Anderson

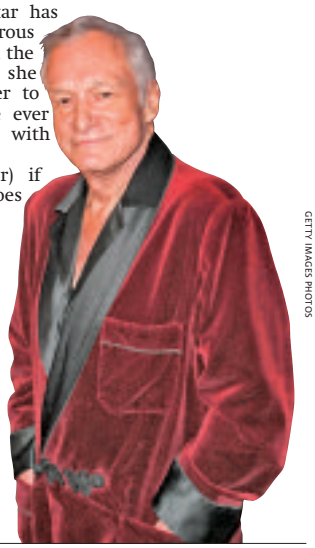
FRIENDSHIP Playboy king Hugh Hefner has offered Pamela Anderson the use of his mansion if she ever finds herself homeless, imdb.com reports.

The Baywatch star has appeared on numerous Playboy covers, and the 41-year-old knows she can rely on Hefner to put her up if she ever finds herself with nowhere to stay.

"(I asked Hefner) if ever anything goes wrong, I can come and live here, can't I?" she says.

Hefner replied: "Yes, of course. You are always welcome at my place."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Mendes OKs nip/tuck

COSMETIC SURGERY Actress Eva Mendes will have no hesitation about going under the knife when her figure starts to sag, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Mendes is currently baring almost all in a series of Calvin Klein billboard advertisements and has previously posed topless for Vogue magazine.

But the 34-year-old acknowledges her looks will only last so long, and she is ready to check in for some cosmetic surgery when she needs to.

"When the time comes, I'm going to nip it and tuck it all," Mendes tells Star magazine.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Keira hates paparazzi

FAME Keira Knightley hates being pursued by the paparazzi — because it ruins her social life, imdb.com reports.

The Atonement actress is well-known for her distaste of snappers who try to secure photos of her personal life.

And the star has admitted her pals fail to invite her to social events in case they are harassed by eager photographers.

"One of them (friends) asked me if I would mind not going out with them to a restaurant one evening as they find the whole paparazzi thing alarming," she tells Britain's Tatler magazine. "I don't blame them. It can be very intimidating."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Coldplay make clothes?

FASHION Coldplay have revealed they love to make their own clothes, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Front man Chris Martin has told how the band likes to sew and modify its own clothes together. Martin, 31, says the band's needlework habits help it bond.

"Making clothes together in our studio makes us feel complete," he says. "We probably sound like a group of grannies in a knitting circle, but it's the truth and it gives us some control over our visual identity. When you are a big band and everyone is taking shots at you, the more things you can do together the better. And if you're wearing uniforms made by your own hands it helps achieve that."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

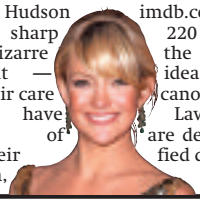
Hudson accused in bizarre lawsuit

LAWSUIT Kate Hudson is at the sharp end of a bizarre new lawsuit — bosses of a hair care company have accused her of stealing their volcano ash, imdb.com reports.

220 Labs bosses claim the actress stole their idea for a secret volcano ash hair product.

Lawyers for 220 Labs are demanding unspecified damages.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Radcliffe slams prudish fans

NUDITY Daniel Radcliffe has slammed prudish fans who refuse to see his naked scenes in theatre show Equus — because he is sick of people branding the production "pornography," imdb.com reports.

The teen actor was required to disrobe on stage when he starred in the dramatic play Equus in London's West End last year — a role he'll soon reprise on Broadway.

And the star is shocked by the reaction of older female fans, insisting his nude scene is no big deal.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

O'Day sick of Paris comparison

RUMOUR Danity Kane star Aubrey O'Day has hit out at people who liken her to Paris Hilton, branding them "horrible" for making the comparison, imdb.com reports.

The blond is sick of being mistaken for the hotel heiress — because she is "nothing like that girl."

"Whenever I carry my dog around, people say, 'Paris Hilton,'" she says. "I absolutely love my dog and I'm nothing like that girl."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

"This makes no sense at all..."

by Joe O'Neill

So, **Hugh Hefner** has offered **Pamela Anderson** a place to stay at his mansion should she ever become homeless. I'm guessing Hugh has seen recent pictures of a haggard-looking Anderson and mistakenly believes that she is homeless. In any case, I've taken the liberty of making public the following list of rules for overnight guests at the Playboy mansion, specifically tailored for Canada's own Pammie, should she ever need them:

"It's a little known fact that Hugh Hefner suffers from ornithophobia, so you can't bring the 1,000 live chickens you rescued from Colonel Sanders with you to the mansion. All former playmates at the mansion must insert staples in their navels so Hefner will be able to recognize them. Exercise on the stationary bike with the special invasive seat attachment is mandatory.

"When changing Hefner's adult diaper, eye contact is strictly forbidden. Hugh Hefner prefers the term 'Dream Enabler' to 'Decrepit Flesh Peddler.'

"Hef wants everyone at the mansion to be comfortable, his version of comfortable, so you must wear either silk pyjamas or nothing.

"Work the following phrase into your conversation as frequently as possible: 'Eighty-two is the new 56.'"

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Blunt to replace Winslet in new movie

Emily Blunt, right, is set to replace Kate Winslet in Sir Elton John's movie Gnomeo and Juliet. Winslet was attached to the project as the voice of Juliet but dropped out in 2006 because of scheduling conflicts. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Beckhams deny crash report

RUMOUR Victoria Beckham and her husband David have lashed out at reports stating they had been involved in a "terrifying car crash," insisting the incident never happened, imdb.com reports.

The showbiz couple were reportedly visiting their home in the village of Bargemon, close to the French Riviera, last week before the soccer star was due to fly to Beijing to take part in the Olympics closing ceremony on Sunday.

And as the pair made their way to Nice airport so the star could catch his plane to China, the pair was involved in a horrific crash — which left their black BMW with a smashed windscreen and extensive damage along the passenger side.

Reports stated David Beckham reportedly smashed the car laterally into a wall, leaving his wife severely shaken, with speculation the accident occurred due to paparazzi hounding the couple.

But the couple's spokesperson, Cheryl Maisel, has denied the crash ever happened, blaming online gossips for the false story. "There was no car crash," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Guy calls Ciccone 'desperate'

LIES Guy Ritchie believes his wife Madonna's brother penned a tell-all book on the singer because he was desperate for the attention, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The filmmaker insists he isn't bothered by Christopher Ciccone's book Life With My Sister Madonna, which made a series of allegations about the Material Girl's private life.

But Snatch director Ritchie denies Ciccone's claim he is homophobic — because Madonna wouldn't stand for it.

"I don't make anything of the book," he says. "The poor chap wrote it out of desperation. I don't think it'd be intelligent to comment on that. I can't give too much equity in what the chap's gonna write in that book. But you'd be hard pushed to be a homophobe and marry Madonna."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Abdul feels iffy about new judge

TELEVISION Paula Abdul's reign as the lone female voice on American Idol's judging panel is over, and she's not convinced that's such a good idea, MSNBC reports.

Following the announcement that Grammy-nominated songwriter Kara DioGuardi would pull up a chair and join her, Randy Jackson and Simon Cowell at the big table, Abdul took to the airwaves to give her take on the turn of events.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Simpson follows Underwood's lead

PEOPLE Jessica Simpson continues to follow in Carrie Underwood's footsteps. Proving that she's really serious about country music, the 28-year-old Texan joined the Country Music Association last week, E! News Online reports.

"She was very sweet and seemed happy to join the organization," a Simpson source said. "Being a member makes you part of the industry. It's great for networking."

Along with SAG-style privileges, such as special-rate health insurance, her membership makes her a voting member of the CMA, meaning she could have a say in upcoming CMA Award nominations.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Duffy feared school ridicule

CAREER Soul singer Duffy once pretended she wanted to study economics because she feared ridicule over her hopes of a singing career, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Duffy admits she lied to her school teachers about her wish to study math.

"They asked me what I wanted to do and I made it up because I thought, 'I'm a singer, they won't believe me,'" she said. "So I said I wanted to do economics. And they looked at my maths score and they were like, 'Are you having a laugh?' I was really bad at maths."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Don't expect Britney on MTV

PEOPLE Despite the funny TV promos she did with this year's VMAs host Russell Brand, don't expect to see Britney Spears on the MTV Video Music Awards this year, intouchweekly.com reports.

Her manager, Larry Rudolph, told Ryan Seacrest that "Britney will not be performing at the VMAs ... I'm telling you officially and unequivocally."

The singer is "in the middle of recording her next album, which is going amazingly well, and was never supposed to perform at the show," according to Rudolph.

Fans hoping to catch a glimpse of Spears on stage will just have to hit a Madonna concert, where she shows up in a video montage during the song Human Nature.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Pitt tests his photography skills

FAMILY Brad Pitt has turned photographer to capture his partner Angelina Jolie and the couple's kids for a new magazine spread, imdb.com reports.

U.S. fashion magazine W commissioned the actor to show off his lensman skills for the publication's upcoming November issue.

One of the vintage cameras collector Pitt used for the candid family photos was a Littman 45 Jolie gave him as a birthday gift.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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CITY: 10.4 L/100KM 27 MPG

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EX model shown

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